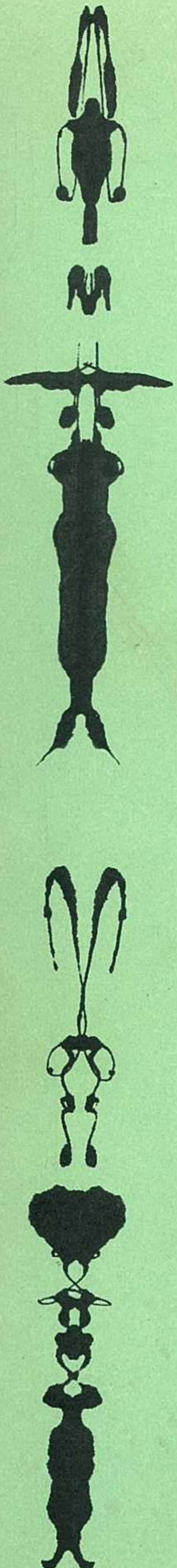
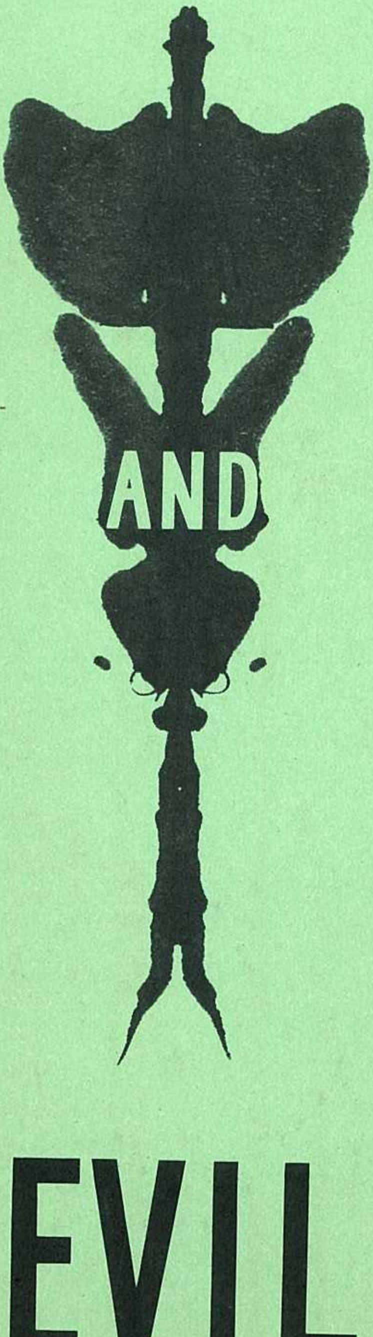
ADDAMS and EVIL

Chas Addams

SIMON AND SCHUSTER

ADDAMS





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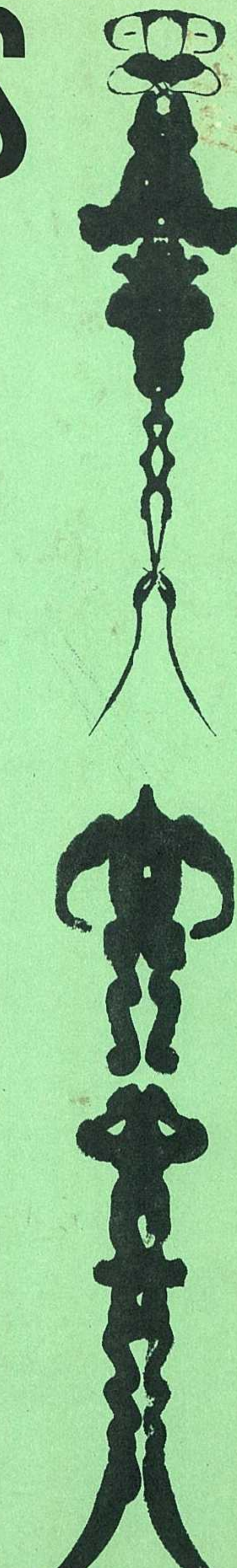

EVIL

RICHARD T. BAKER

ADDAMS and EVIL

AN ALBUM OF CARTOONS
BY
CHARLES ADDAMS
WITH AN INTRODUCTION
BY
WOLCOTT GIBBS

SIMON AND SCHUSTER, NEW YORK

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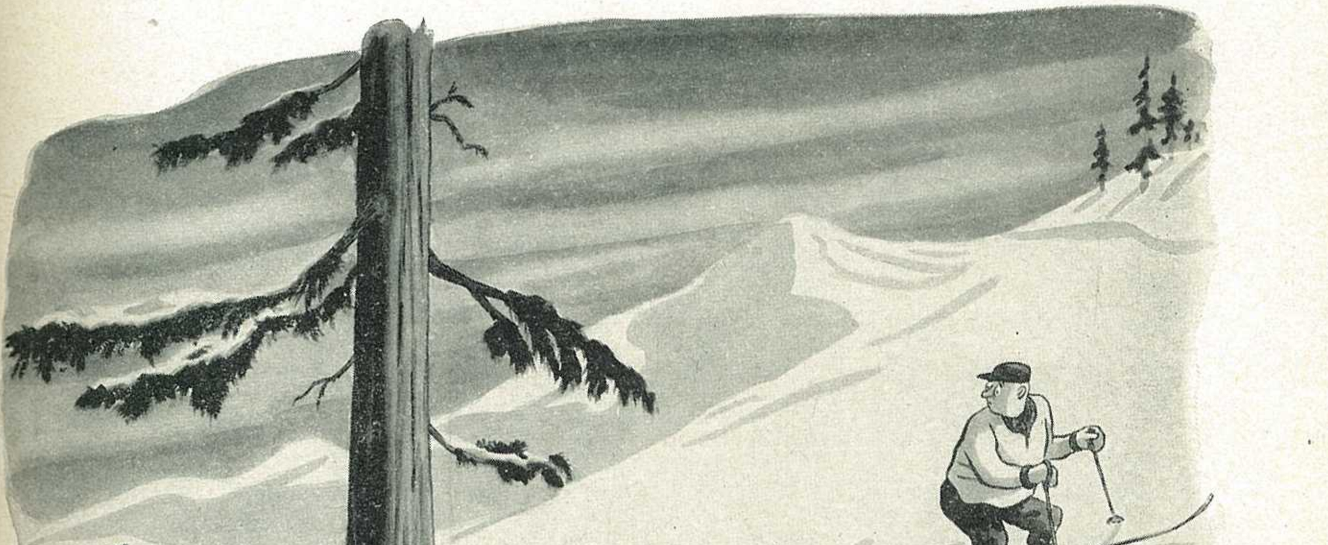
For Barbara


Chas Addams

Foreword by Wolcott Gibbs

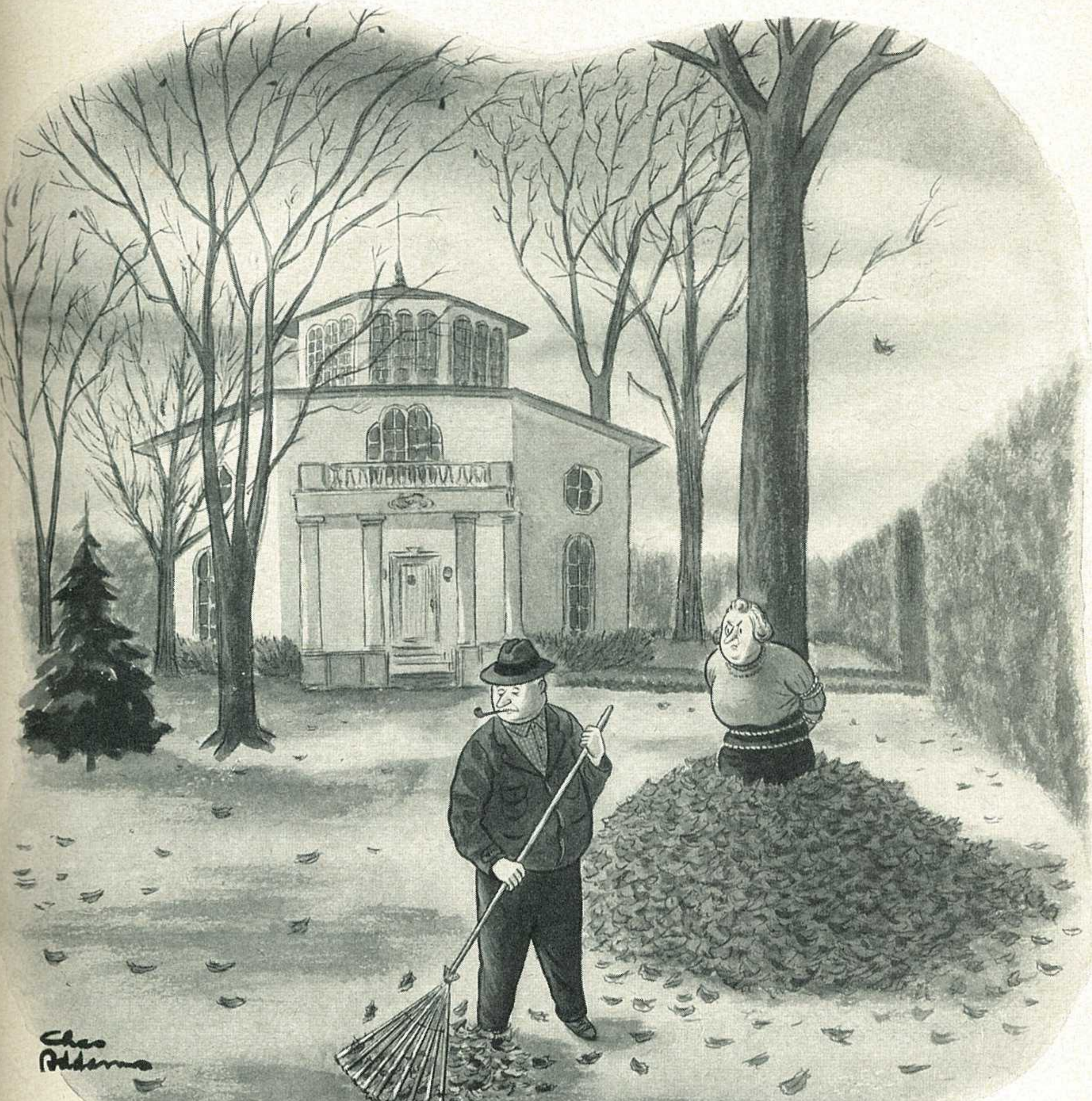
NEW YORKER cartoons can be roughly divided into two classifications, which, back in the days when I was the most insanely miscast of an almost endless procession of art editors, were conveniently designated as "straight" and "nutty." The first of these was, and still is, pleasantly represented by Miss Helen Hokinson, whose suburban ladies are so plumply and engagingly drawn from life, and whose humor in general is based on the rather touching comedy of arrested development; her heroines, that is, are forever engaged in a struggle to preserve the innocent, undaunted enthusiasms of a long-ago campus in circles that are not precisely hostile to the Bryn Mawr ideal, but are nevertheless inclined to be somewhat detached and inscrutable about it. In a limited sense, since a stratum of Westchester is really an almost microscopic cross-section of America, Miss Hokinson can be described as a social critic, and her work simply as a remarkably acute editing and pointing up of the facts.

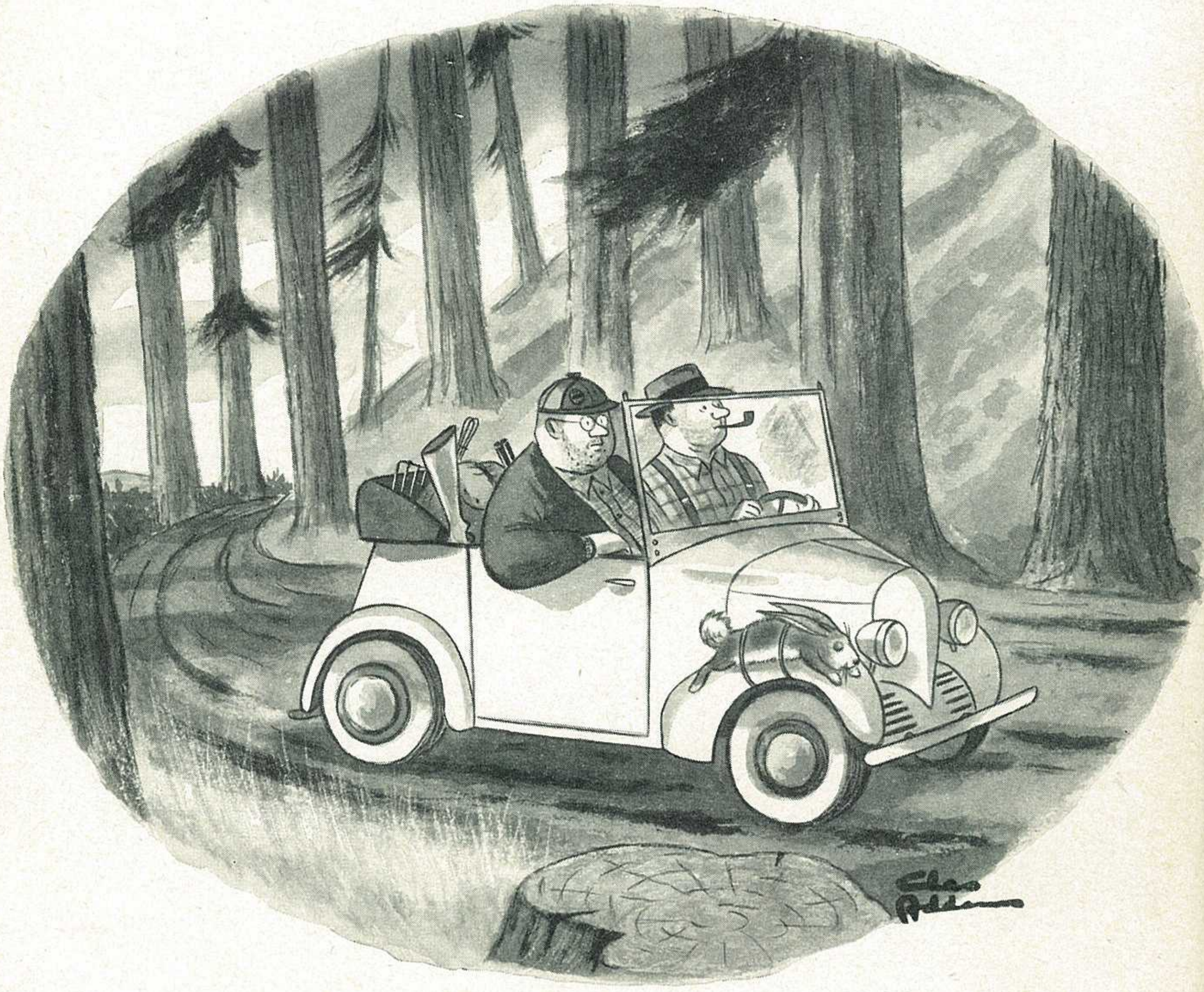
The other type of New Yorker art, rather menacingly displayed in the pages of this book, is harder to define, since it is less a criticism of any local system than a total and melodramatic re-arrangement of all life. Unlike the reportorial artist, whose scenes and personnel are ready-made, the man who draws pictures like those assembled here is obliged to create a nightmare landscape of his own and to people it with men, beasts, and even machines whose appearance and behavior are terribly at variance with the observable universe. He is, generally speaking, successful to the precise extent to which his creations seem peculiar, disturbing, and even outrageous to the normal, balanced mind. In my opinion, the subject of these notes — a man named Charles Addams — is one of the most outrageous artists in America in the sense that his work is essentially a denial of all spiritual and physical evolution in the human race. Some of this book is merely disconcerting — if, of course, it is no more than disconcerting for a couple in a hotel room to watch the sprouting of a pattern of knife points in the wall, unmistakably outlining a shrinking female form — but most of it is frankly devoted to man's crazy, triumphant return to the mud from which he came. The monsters in Addams' world are still in the minority — the movie audience still holds only one giggling pervert; only one child in the manual-training class is busy with a little coffin; few people have two heads, three arms, or but a single, centered eye; the inmates of that secret, black, and midnight manse are still a household somewhat set apart — but it is only too clear that actually these are the dominant strain, that somehow, as if God had shrugged His shoulders and given up the world, natural selection has reversed itself and presently our civilization will once again belong to the misshapen, the moonstruck, and the damned.

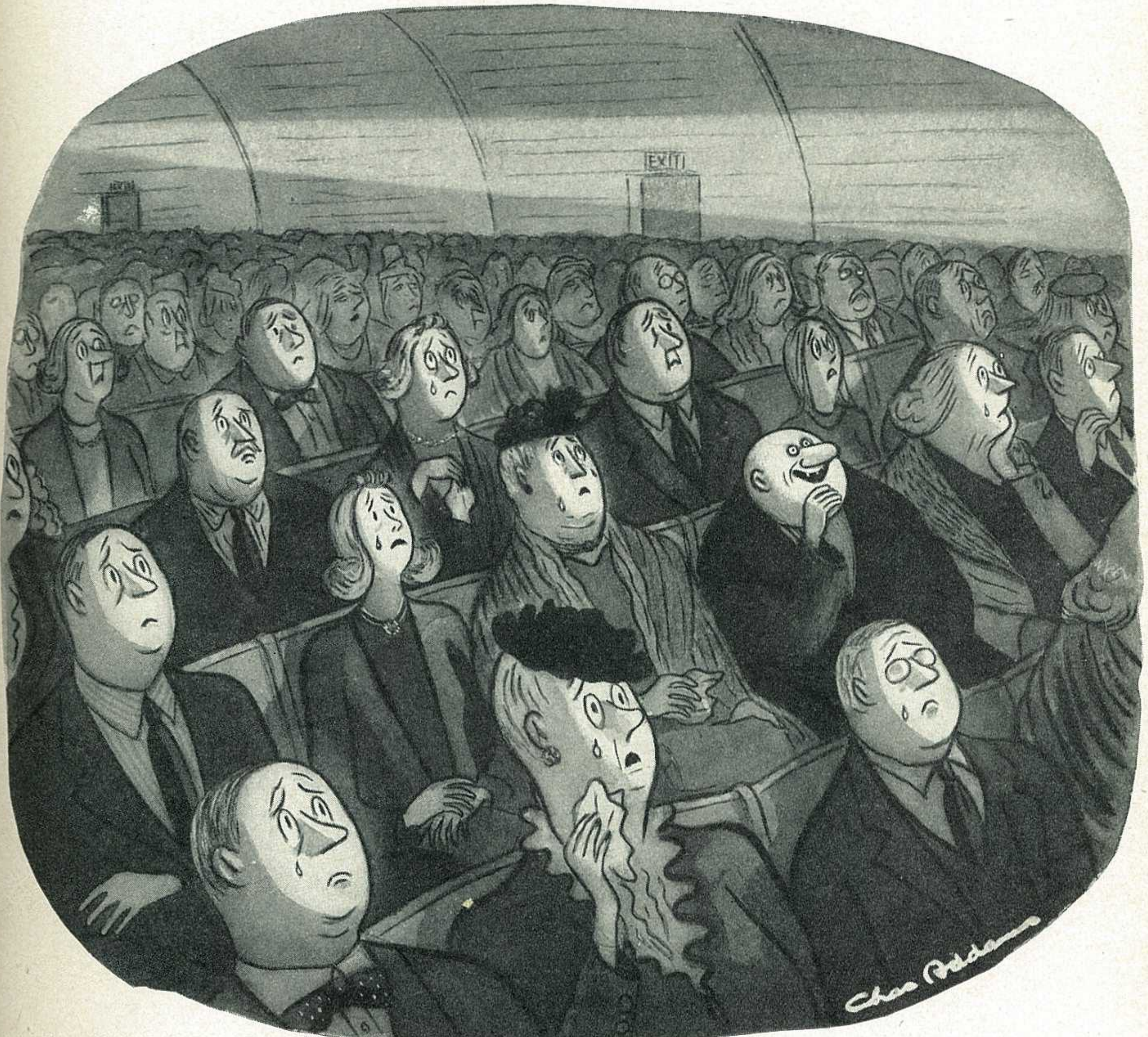
As Dorothy Parker once wrote in a foreword to a collection of Thurber's pictures, it is interesting, though not necessarily reassuring, to speculate about the lives of the characters in a cartoon before and after that instant, or series of instants, in which the artist has frozen them for our startled entertainment. In studying this book, for instance, the thoughtful reader may like to dwell on the possible future of the tiny chemist who has learned the awful formula that translates Jekyll into Hyde, or he may try to reconstruct the exasperating past that has somehow led a calm, pipe-smoking suburbanite to incinerate his wife on a pyre of cheerful autumn leaves, raked from his own front lawn. Certainly, he will wonder about the inhabitants of that crumbling Gothic pile known, at least to me, as the Old Charles Addams Place. What dark and shameful compulsion brought the proprietors together — the haggard, ruined beauty and the ignoble half-breed? What unspeakable rites united them, if wed they are at all? We know their little girl has six toes on her left foot, that her younger brother likes to mix his childish poison brews, and that their only playmates are bats and spiders and probably the Thing that has no face but wails and drags his chains at night. It is little enough, and we know still less about the shambling giant who ministers to their dreadful needs, except that he is apparently dumb and almost certainly a homicidal maniac.

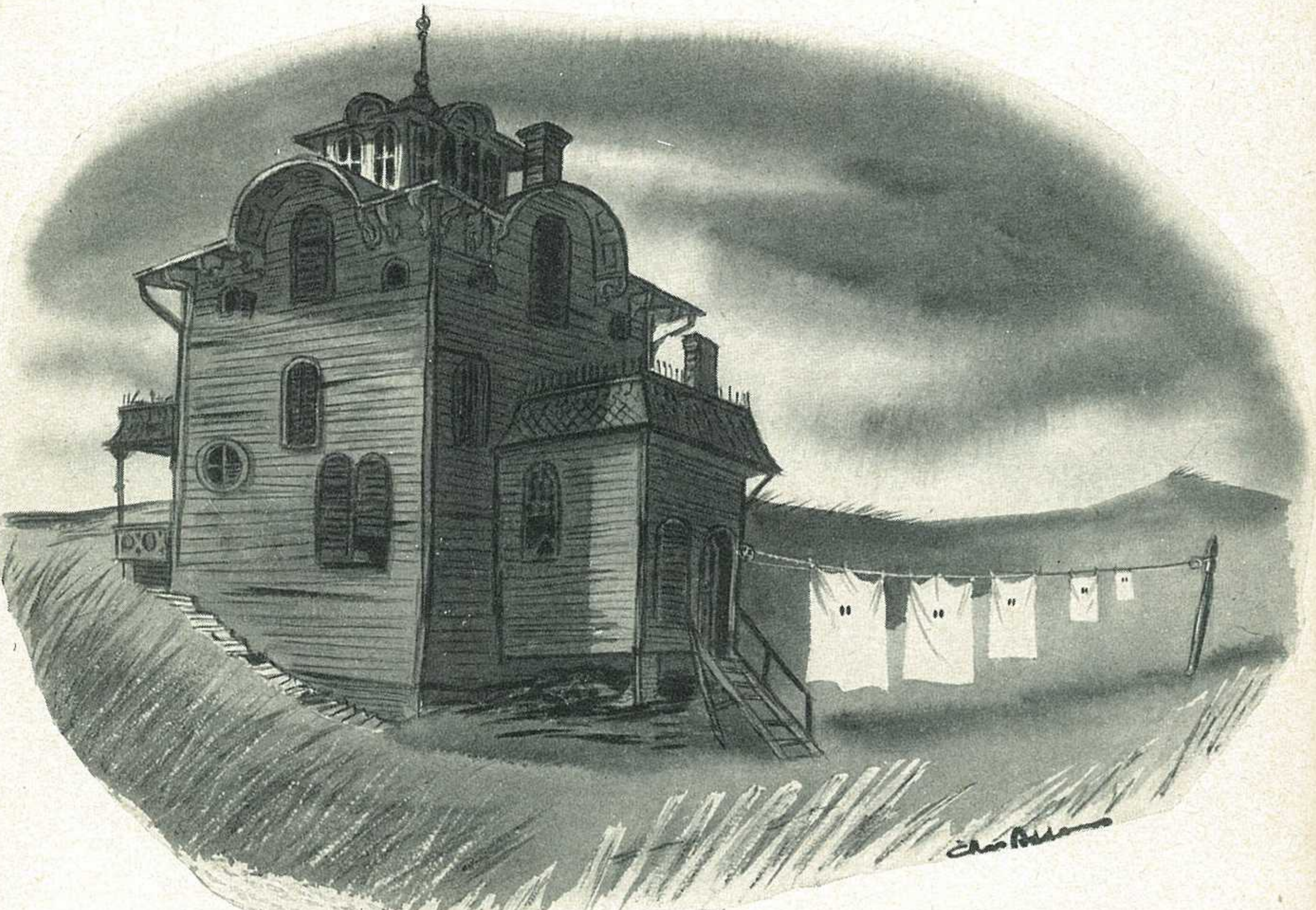
In fact, we can surmise almost nothing about any of Mr. Addams' characters, beyond the single, captured, apocalyptic moment, and it seems a pity because they are obviously among the really rewarding people of our time. However, as Mrs. Parker was obliged to conclude about the Thurber men and their even odder mates, it is madness in the end to try to provide great works of the imagination with sane and detailed backgrounds. The recorded instance has to suffice, and here, for our sanity, perhaps it is just as well. To know, for instance, what the servant in that doomed and dreadful house does on his nights off, when the crazy moon is full, is something I am content to leave to Mr. Addams and whatever Thing he calls his God. Yes, on the whole I think the glimpses he's allowed us are enough.

Finally, in answer to those who want to know what manner of man is responsible for the matchless depravity in these pages, I can only report that he seems to me very little different from my other friends — a little larger and more casually assembled perhaps, and, of course, somewhat set apart from them by his mysterious dealings in ancient crossbows, articulated bones, and costly, buglike foreign cars. Of the morbid eccentricities that you have undoubtedly been led to expect, however, I'm sorry to say that there is scarcely any trace. It is true that once he gave my ten-year-old son a gleaming human skull, but this, I should say, was merely an example of his generous and perceptive spirit (it was clear that the child needed a skull beyond anything else at the moment in the world), and I doubt if he can be charged with any desire to add one more budding monster to his black domain. Indeed, considering the fact that his work has reached the point where it is sometimes used to diagnose incipient lunacy (the theory seems to be that if you think you can explain an Addams picture, the lunacy is no longer incipient), he is notably and almost disappointingly free from any interesting clinical symptoms of his own. Altogether, if you have to have the dismal facts, I'm embarrassed to say that as far as I can tell he is just a hell of a nice guy, whose habits are probably a good deal less sinister than yours or, for that matter, even mine.

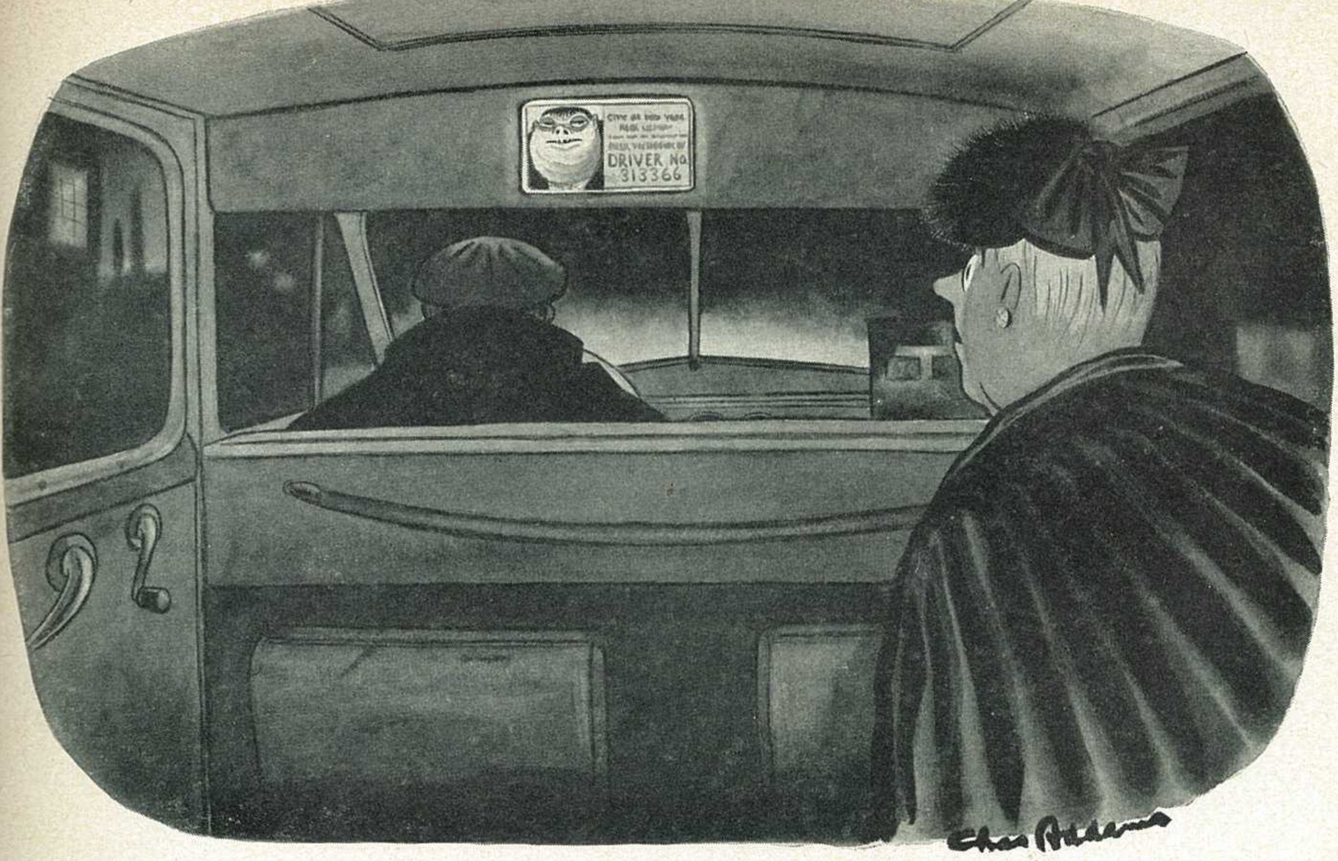

Chas Addams

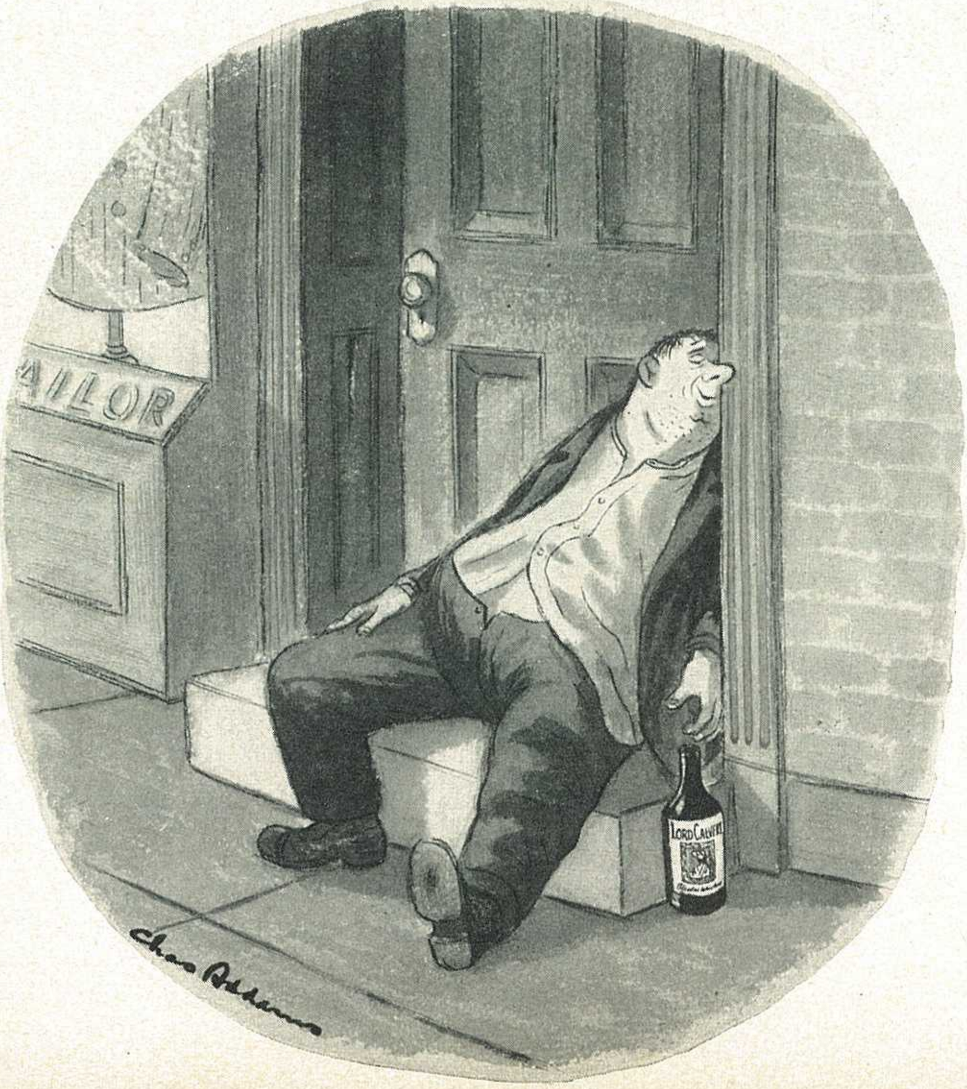

Chas Addams

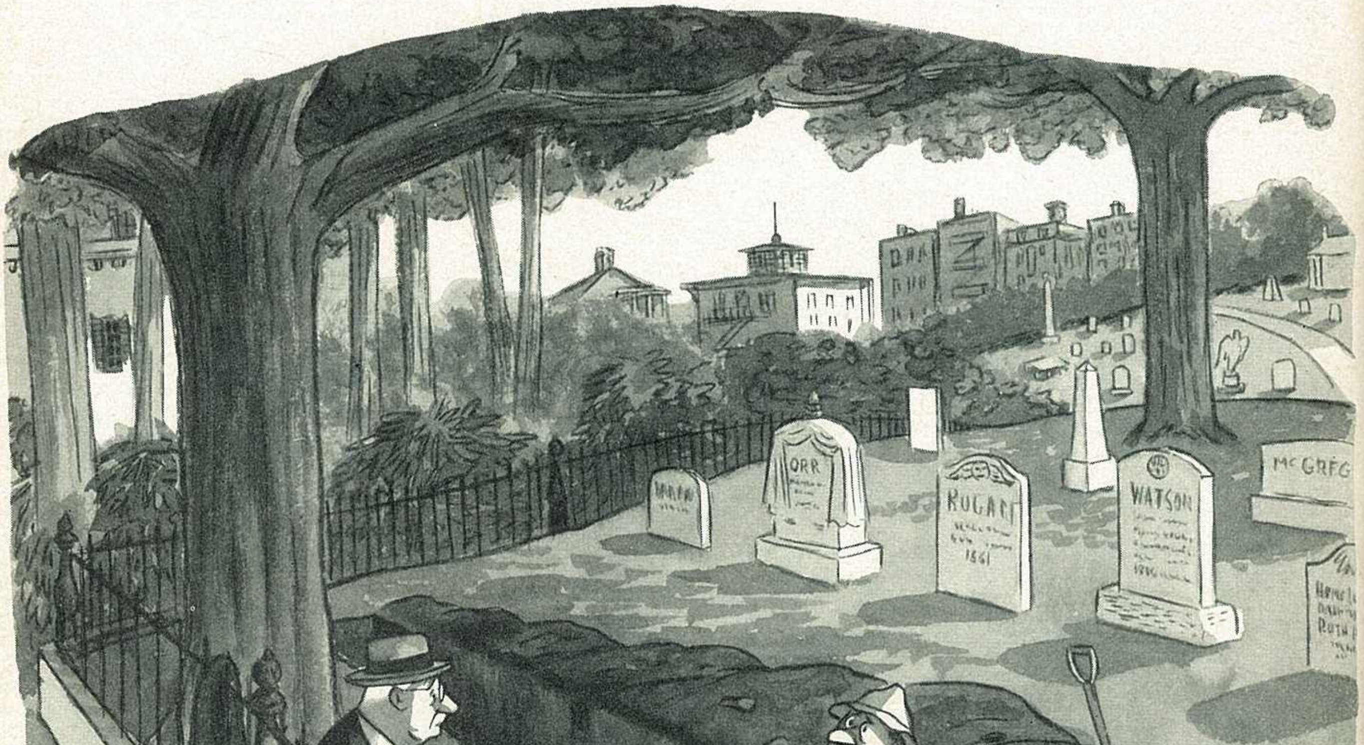

EXIT
Chas Addams



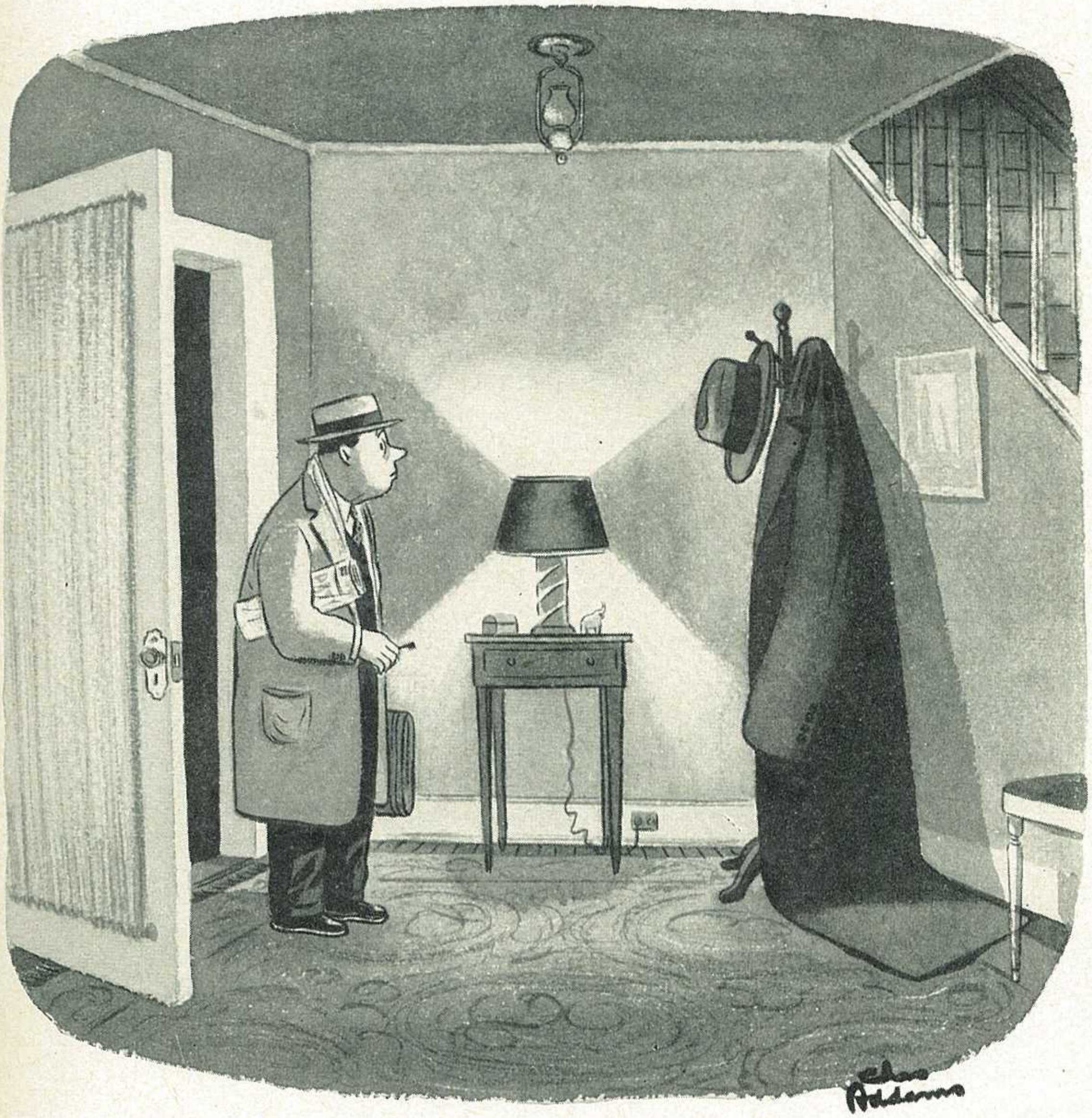
Chas Addams

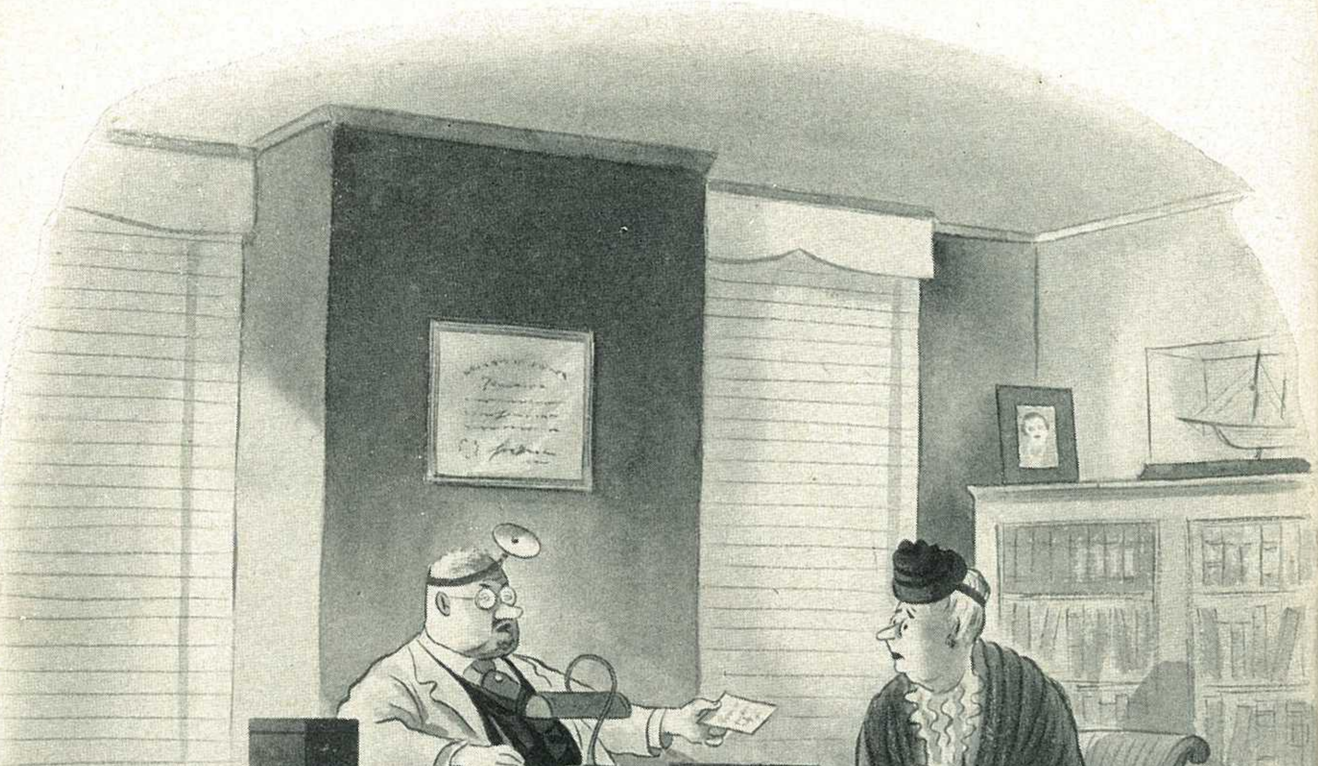

CITY OF NEW YORK
DRIVER No.
313366
Chas Addams


AILOR
LORD CALVERT
Chas Addams

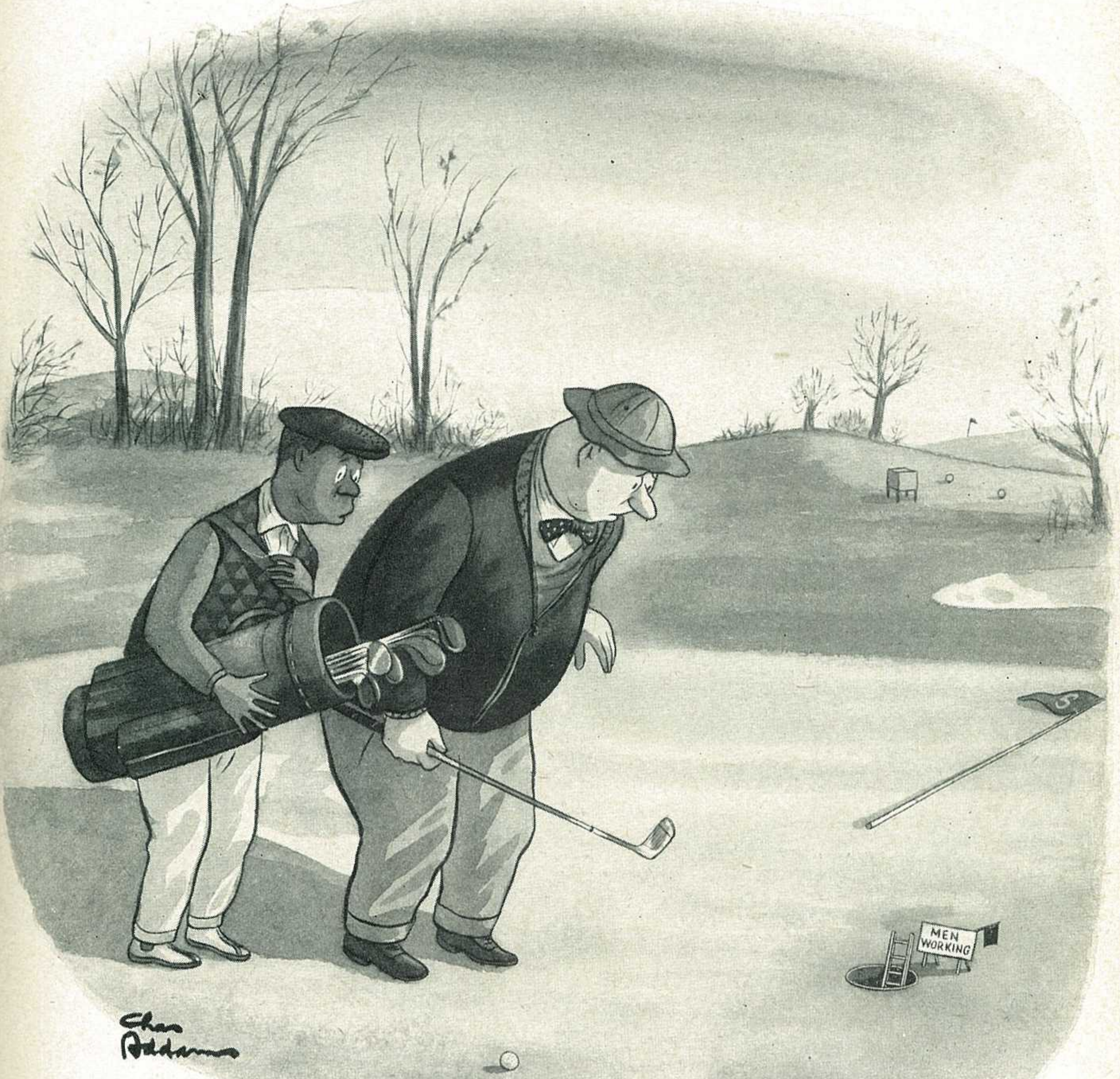

ORR
KOGAN
1861
WATSON
McGREG
Chas Addams

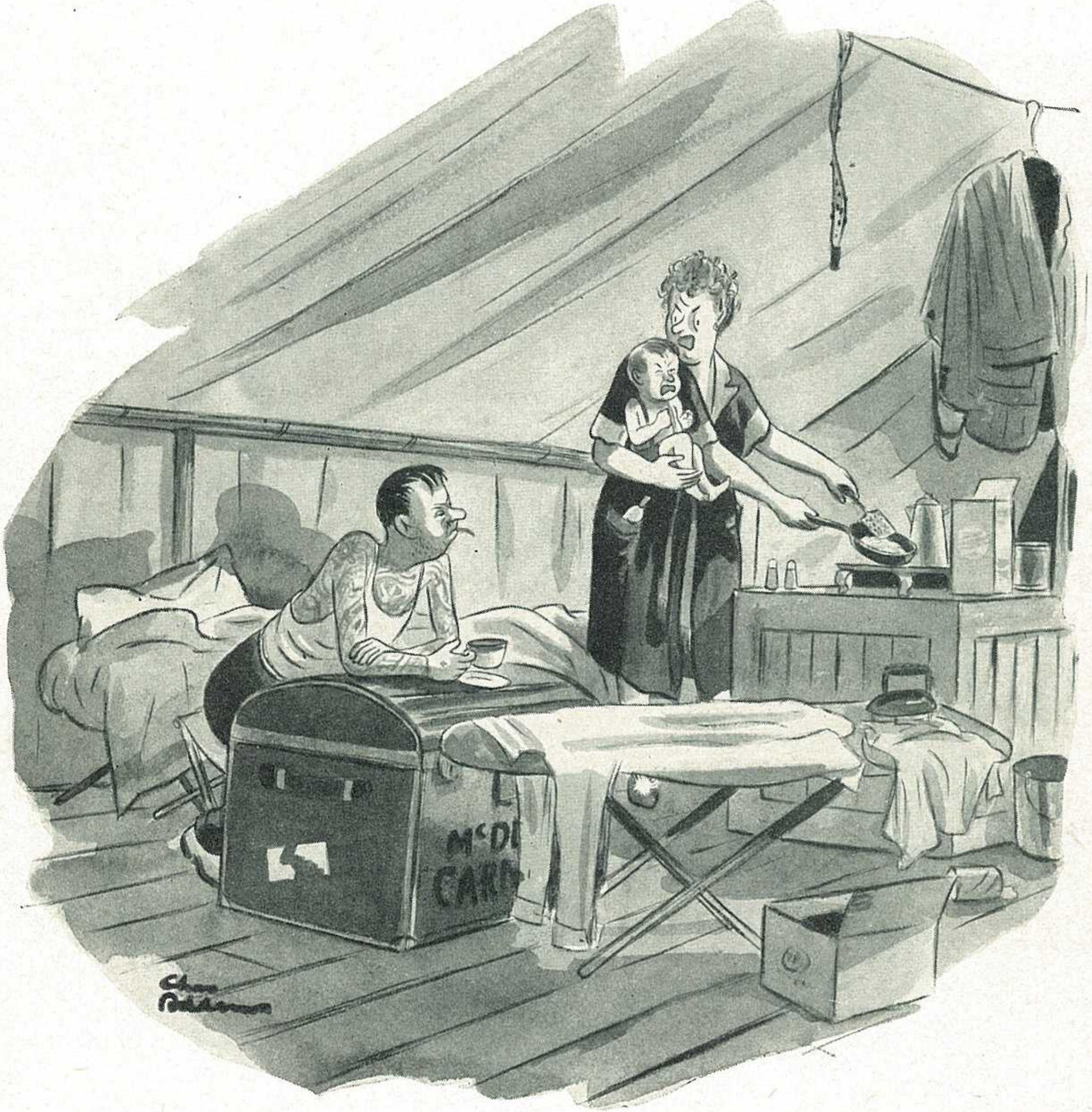
"Oh, my goodness, no! Just a water main."


Chas Addams

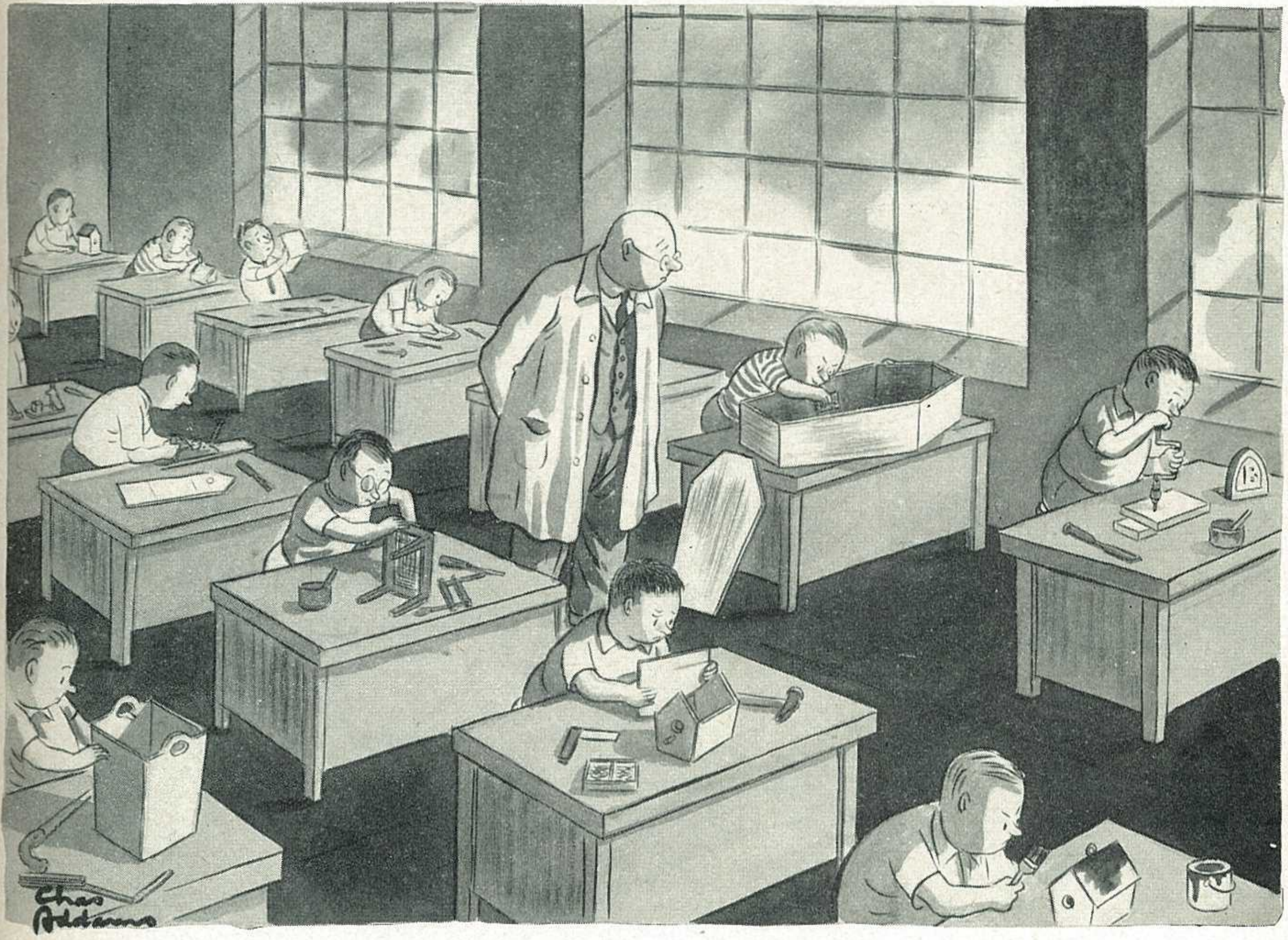


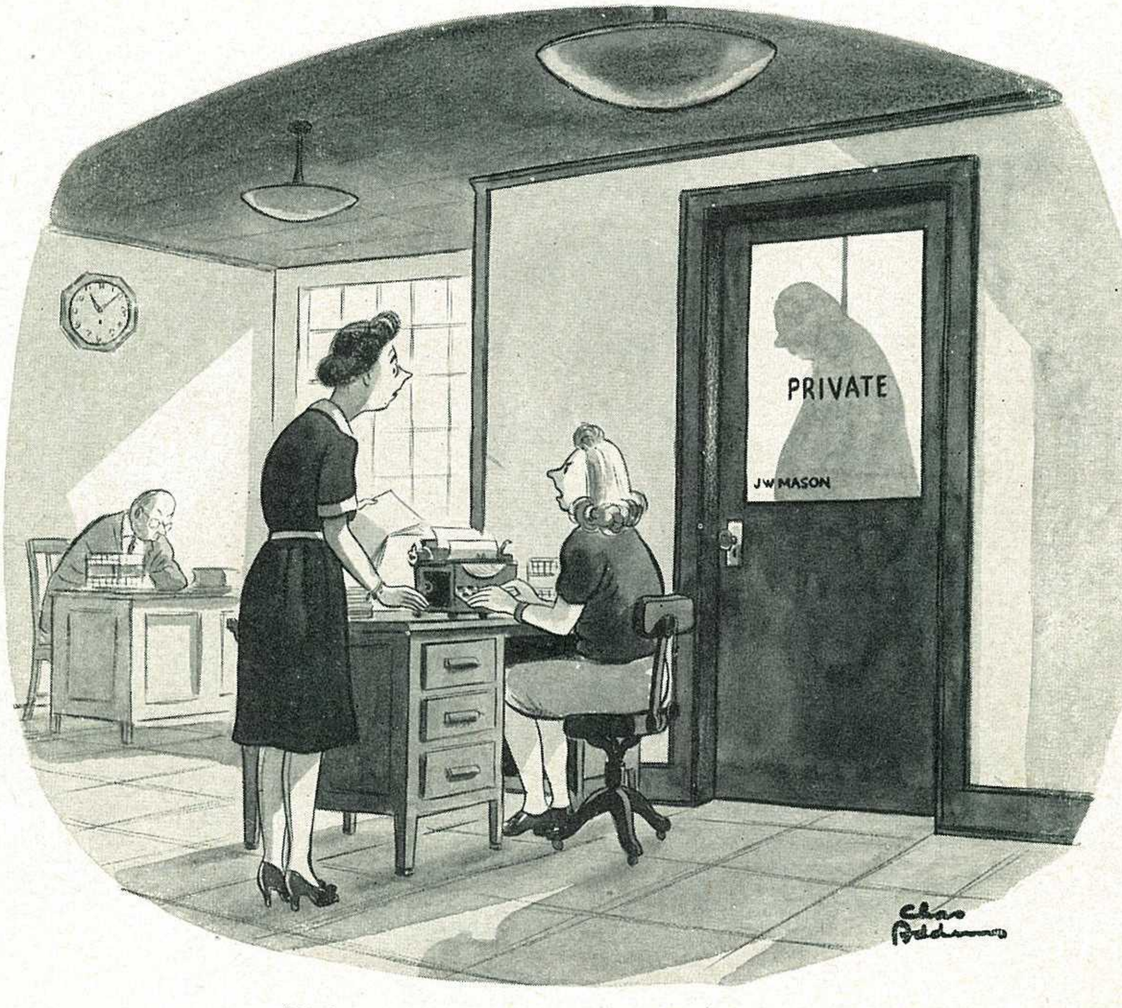
"Now have this prescription filled and take as directed. Then, two nights after the first full moon, procure the left hind leg of a he-frog and a root of St. John's-wort . . ."


5
MEN WORKING
Chas Addams

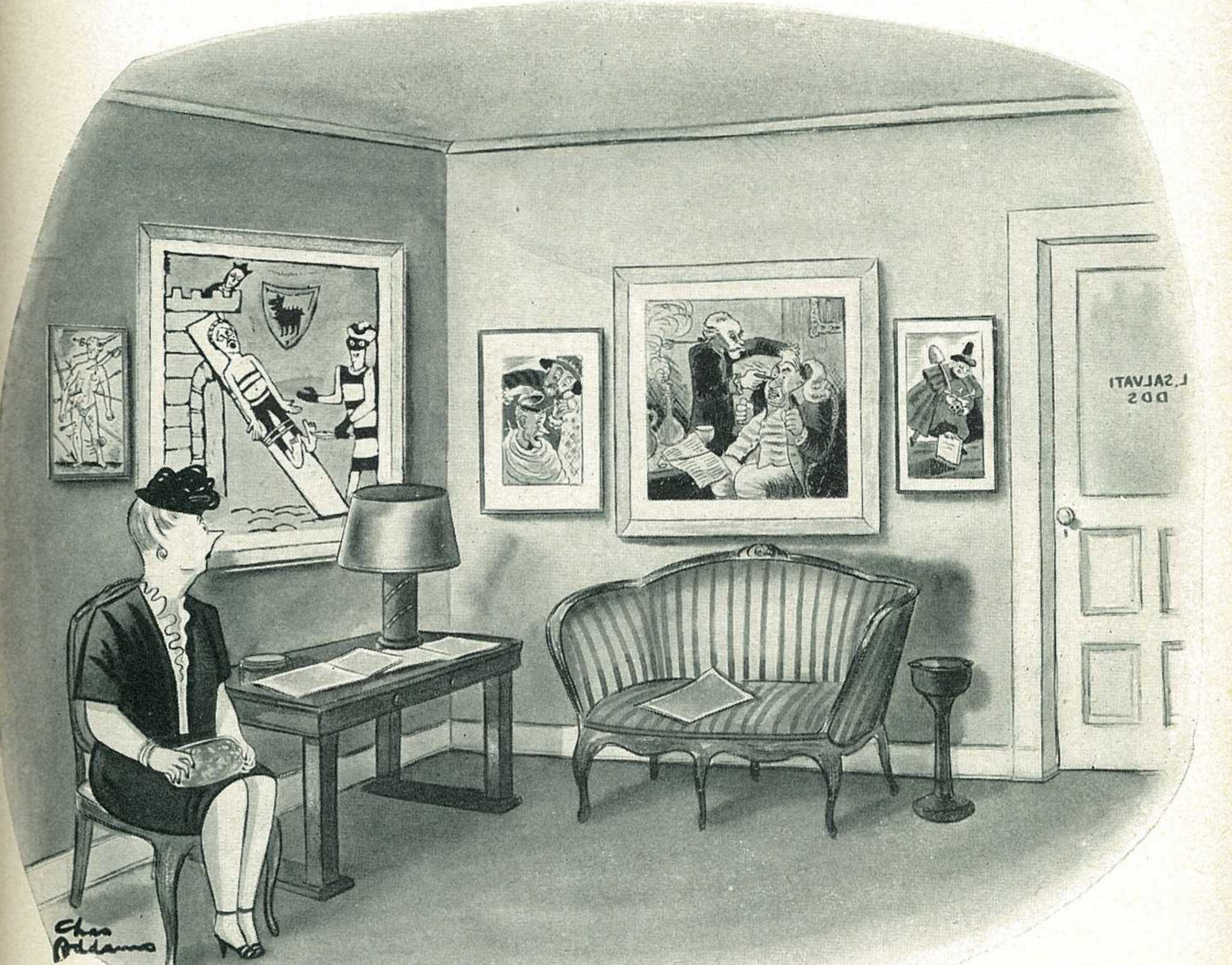


"Wait a minute, can't you? I've only got three hands."

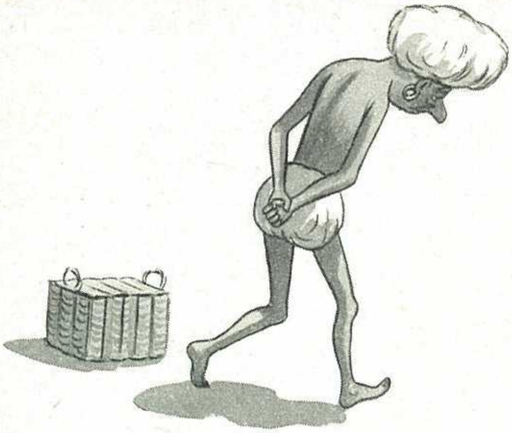

B
Chas Addams


PRIVATE
J W MASON
Chas Addams

"*I know, but I don't go in unless he buzzes.*"


L. SALVATI
DDS
Chas Addams

1



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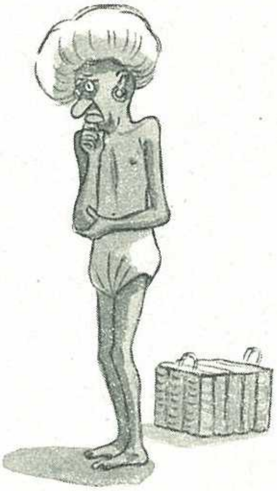

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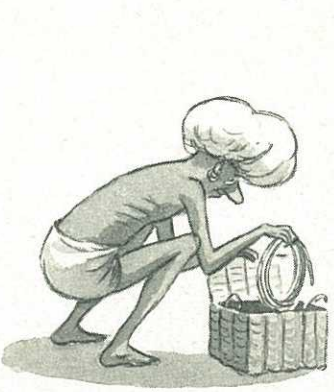

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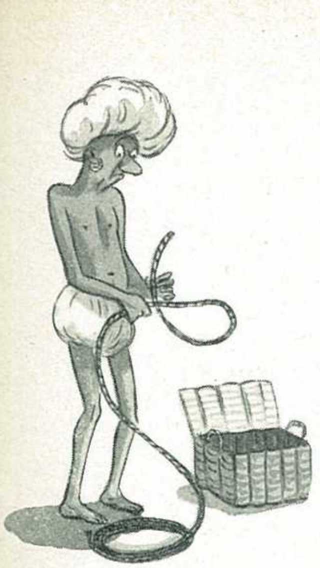

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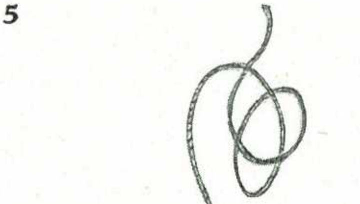

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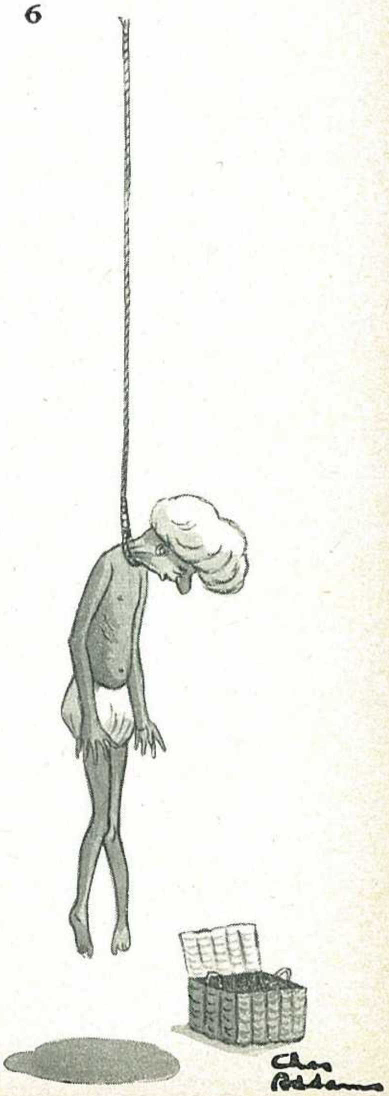
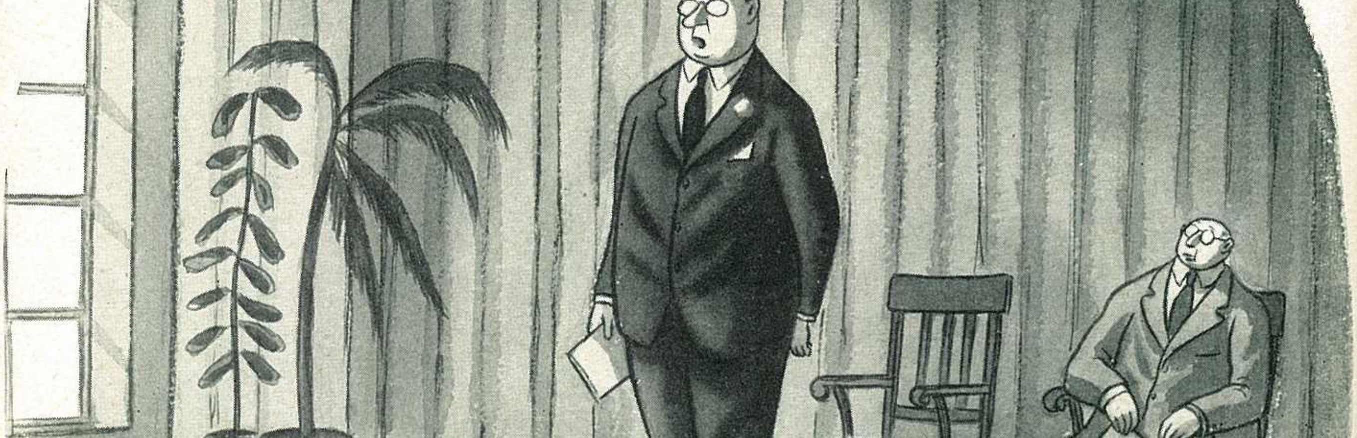
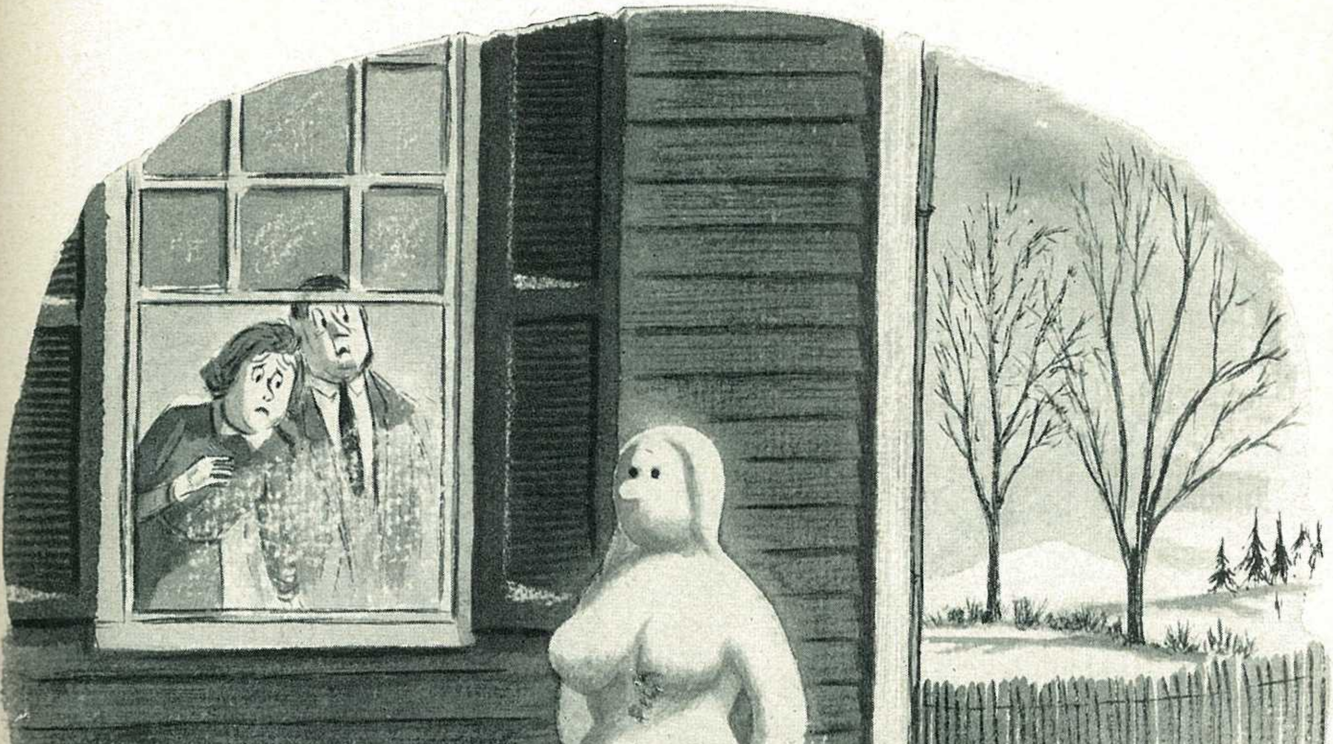
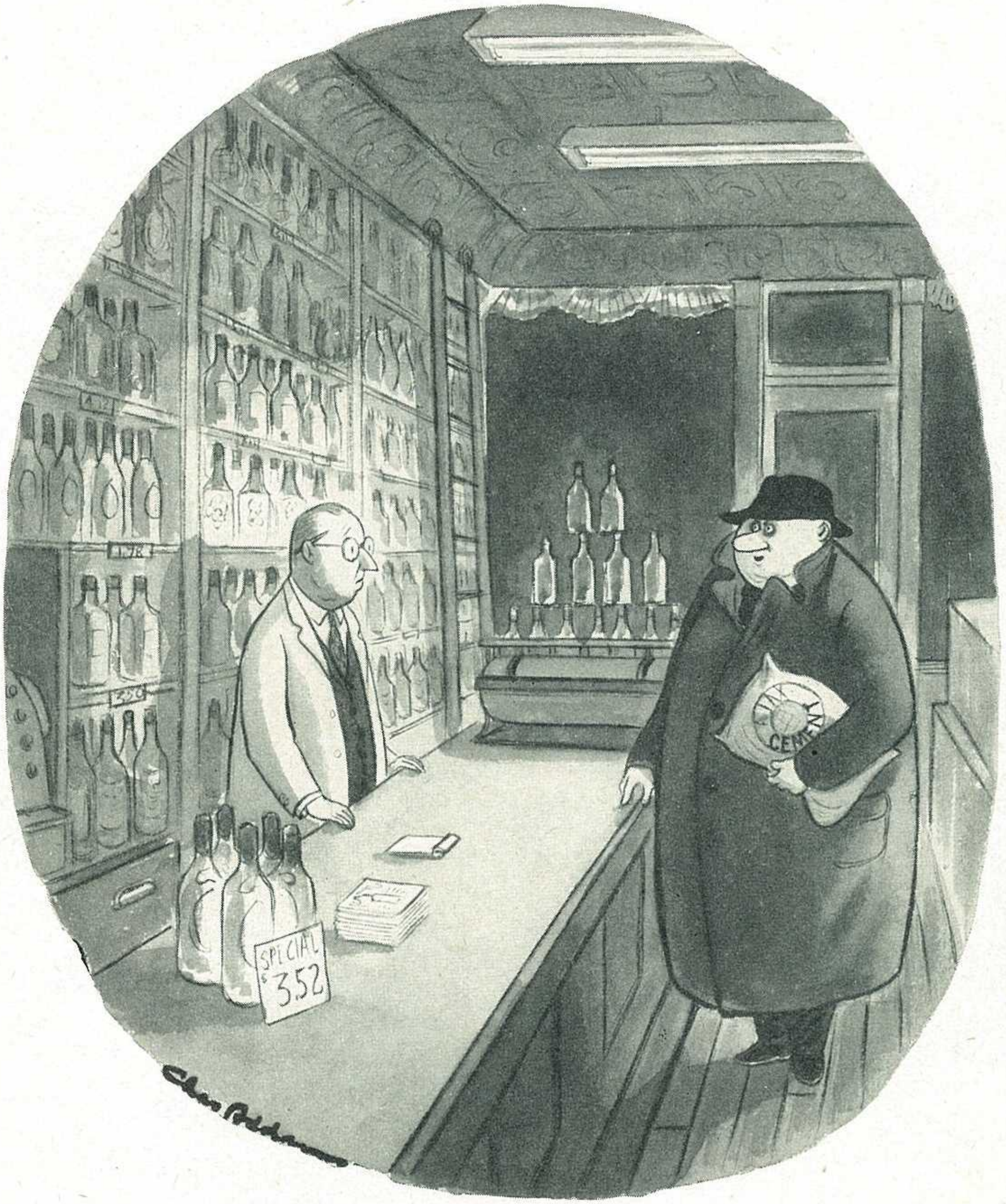

Chas Addams

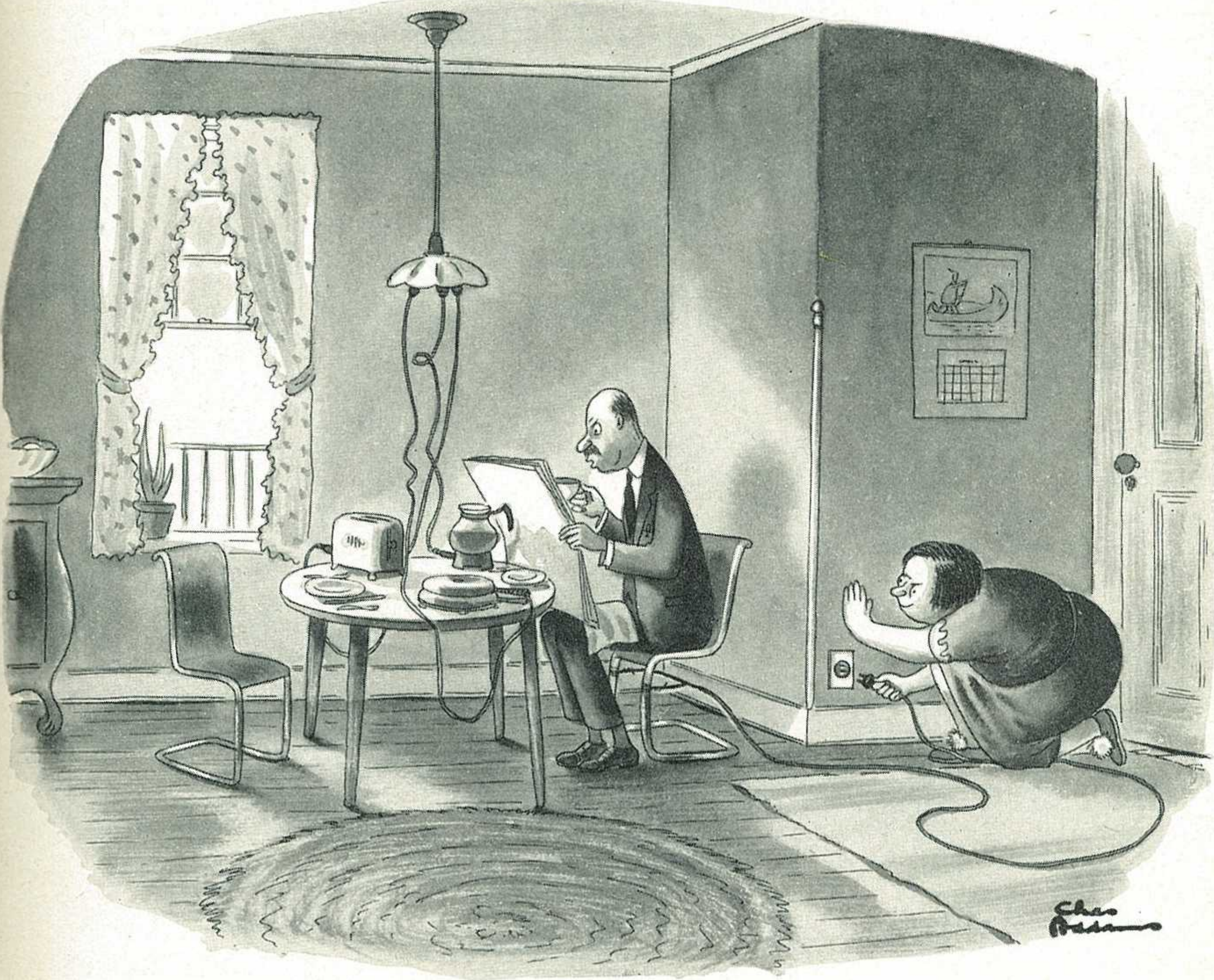


"Dr. Fairburn is going to tell us about some of his interesting experiences among the head-shrinking tribes of Ecuador."

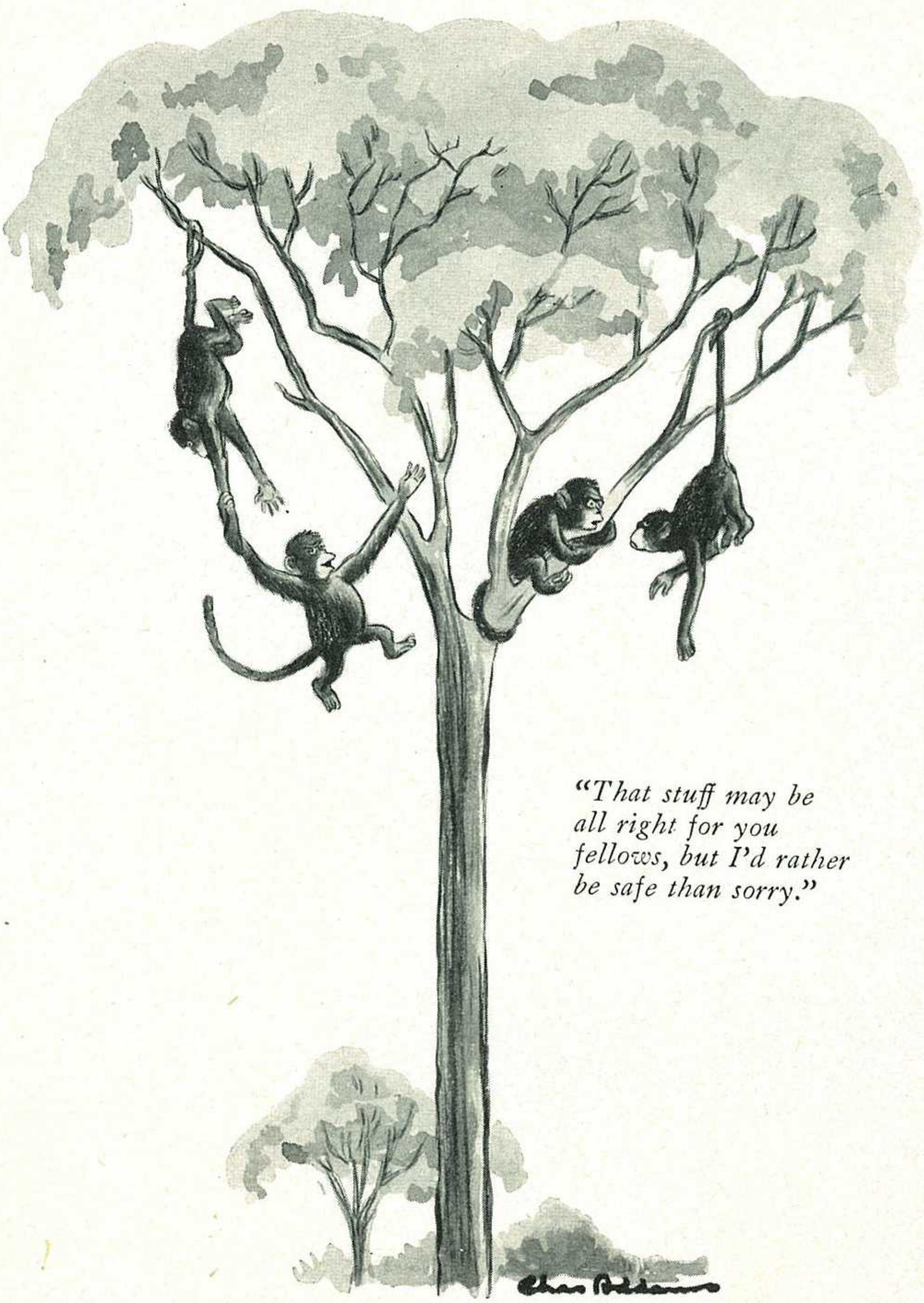

Chas Addams


SPECIAL
$3.52
CEMENT
Chas Addams

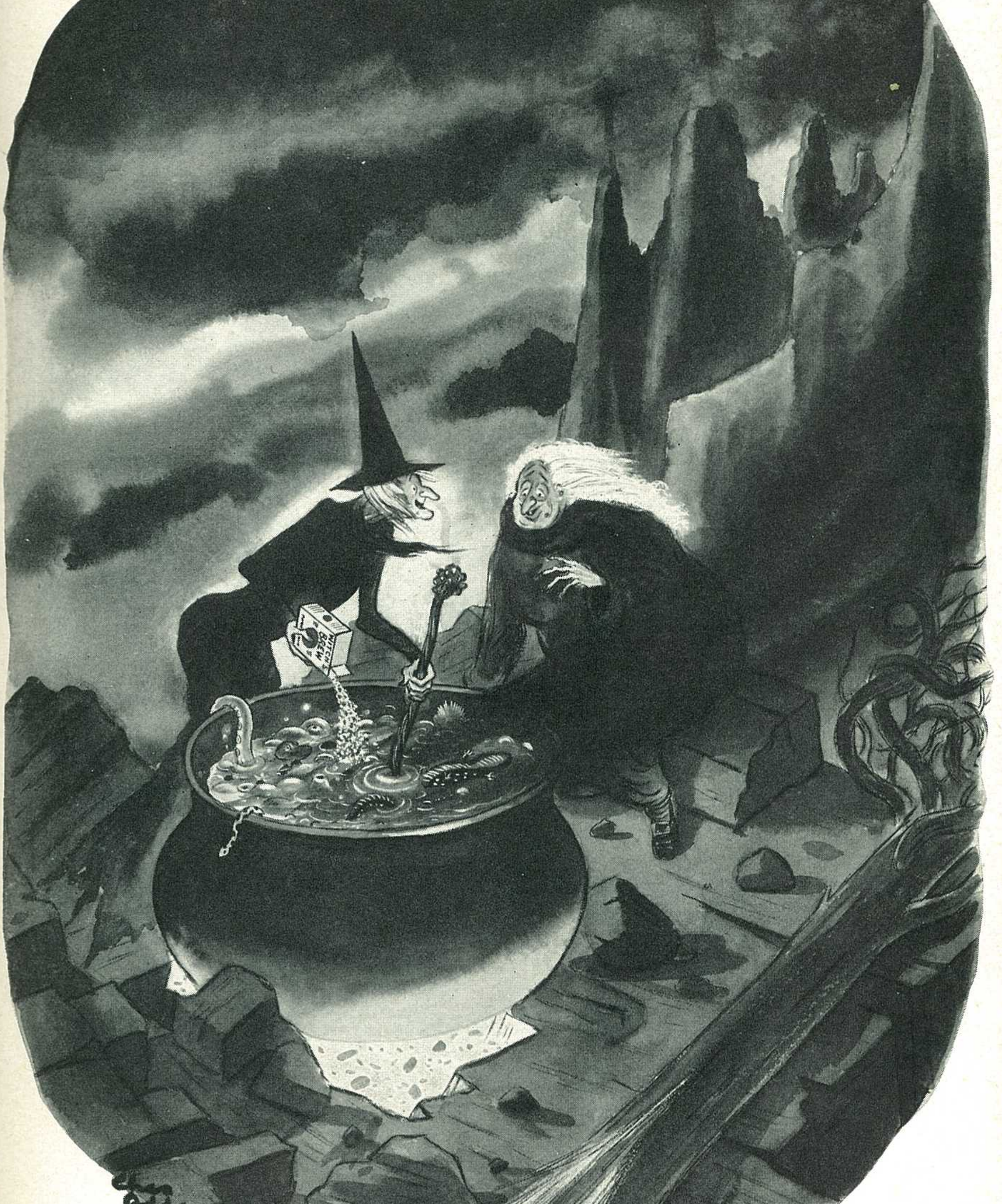
"*A cask of Amontillado, please.*"



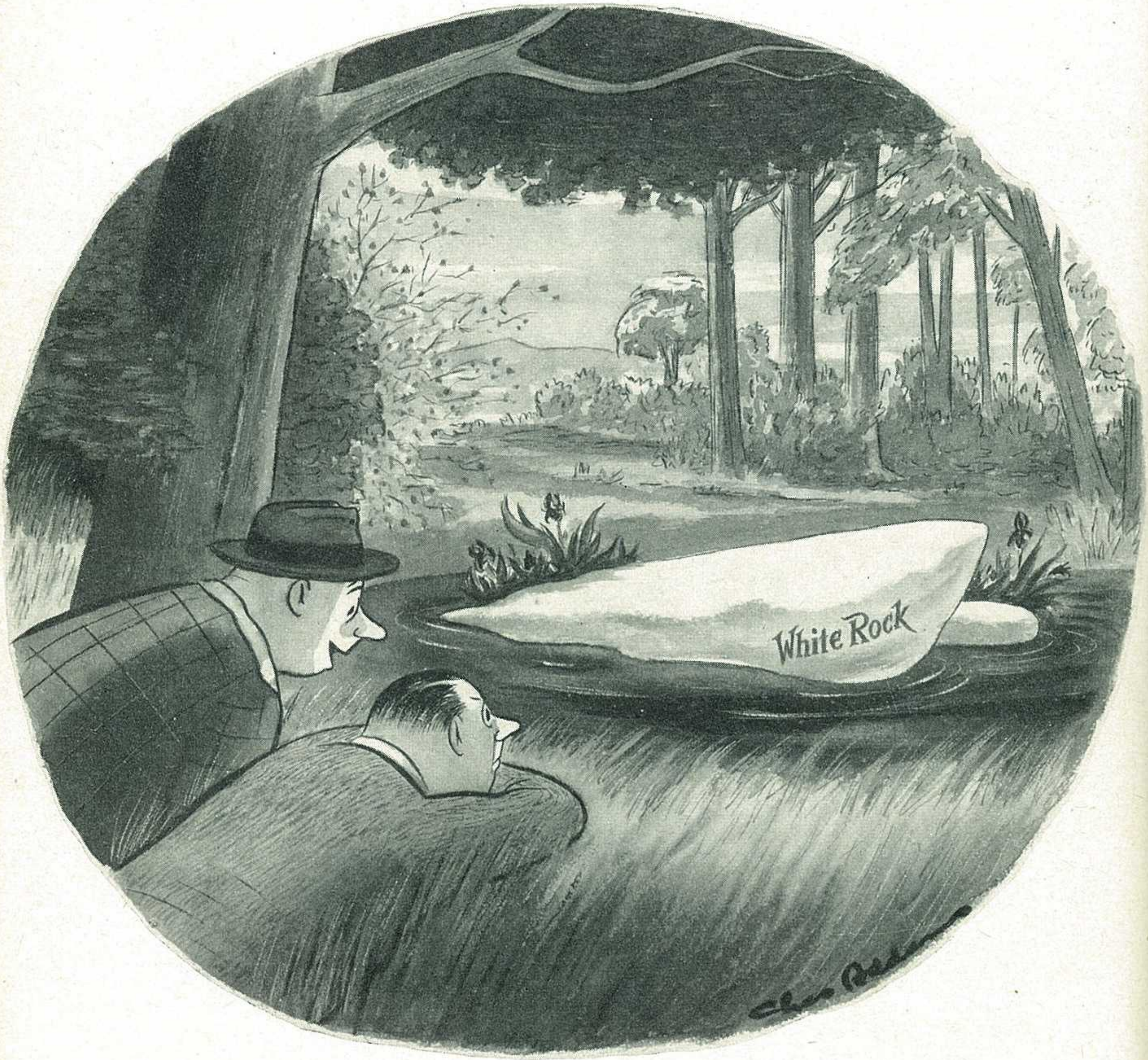
Chas Addams


Chas Addams

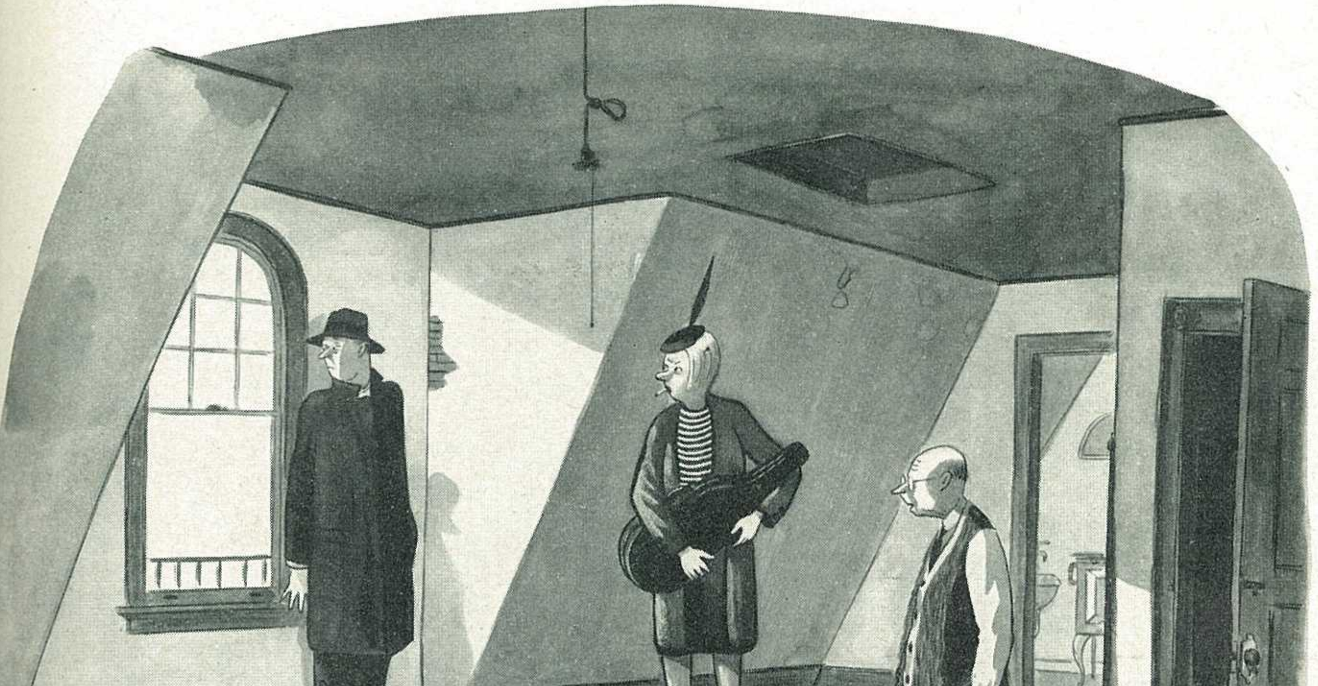
"That stuff may be all right for you fellows, but I'd rather be safe than sorry."


WITCH'S BREW

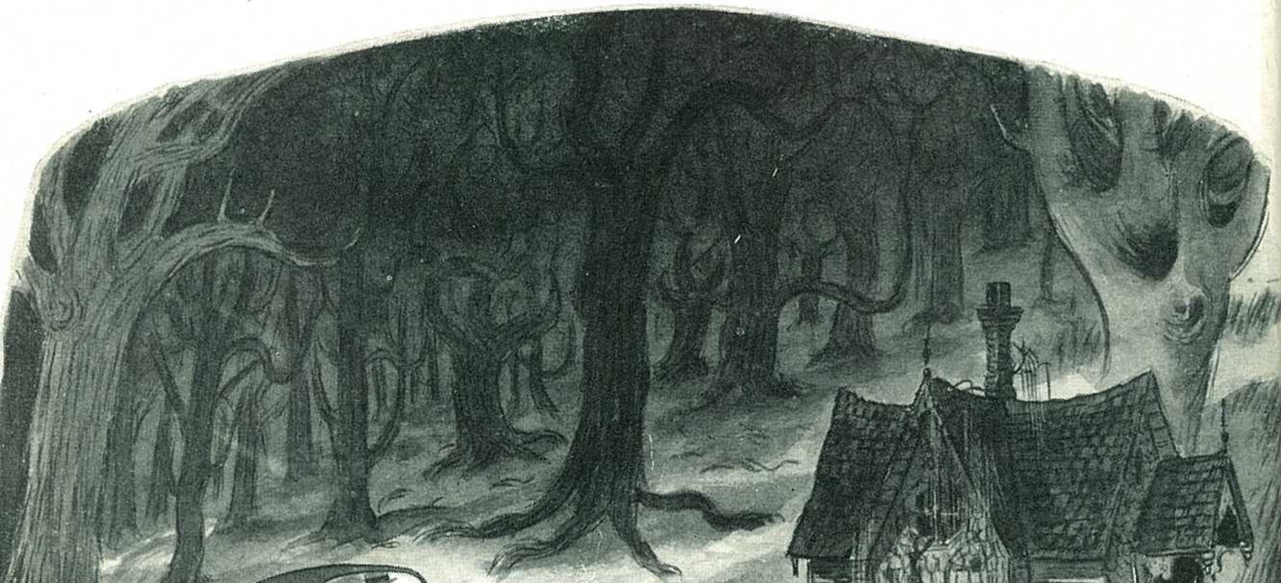
"It's marvelous! All you do is add water."

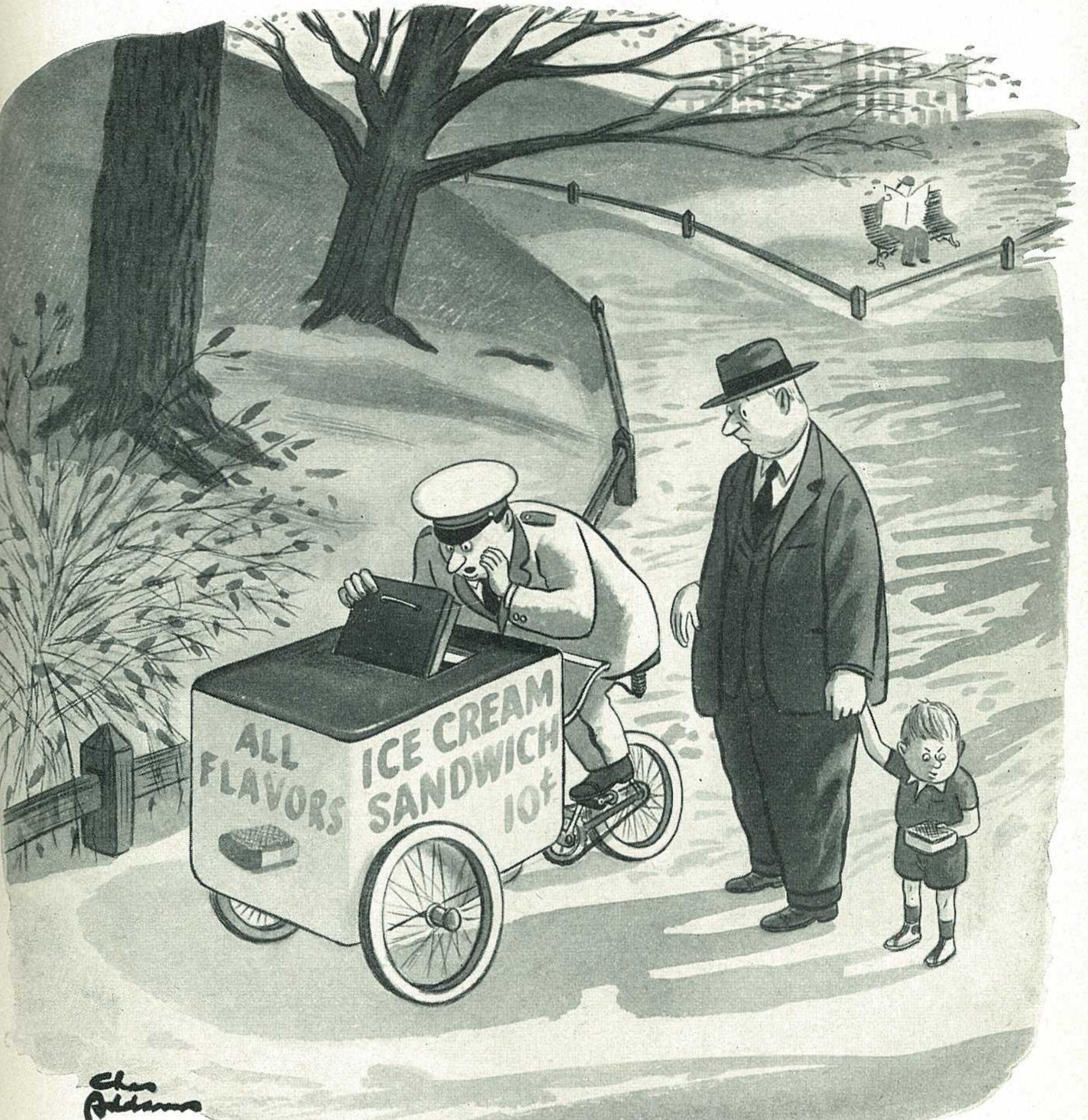


"Just keep your shirt on. You'll see."

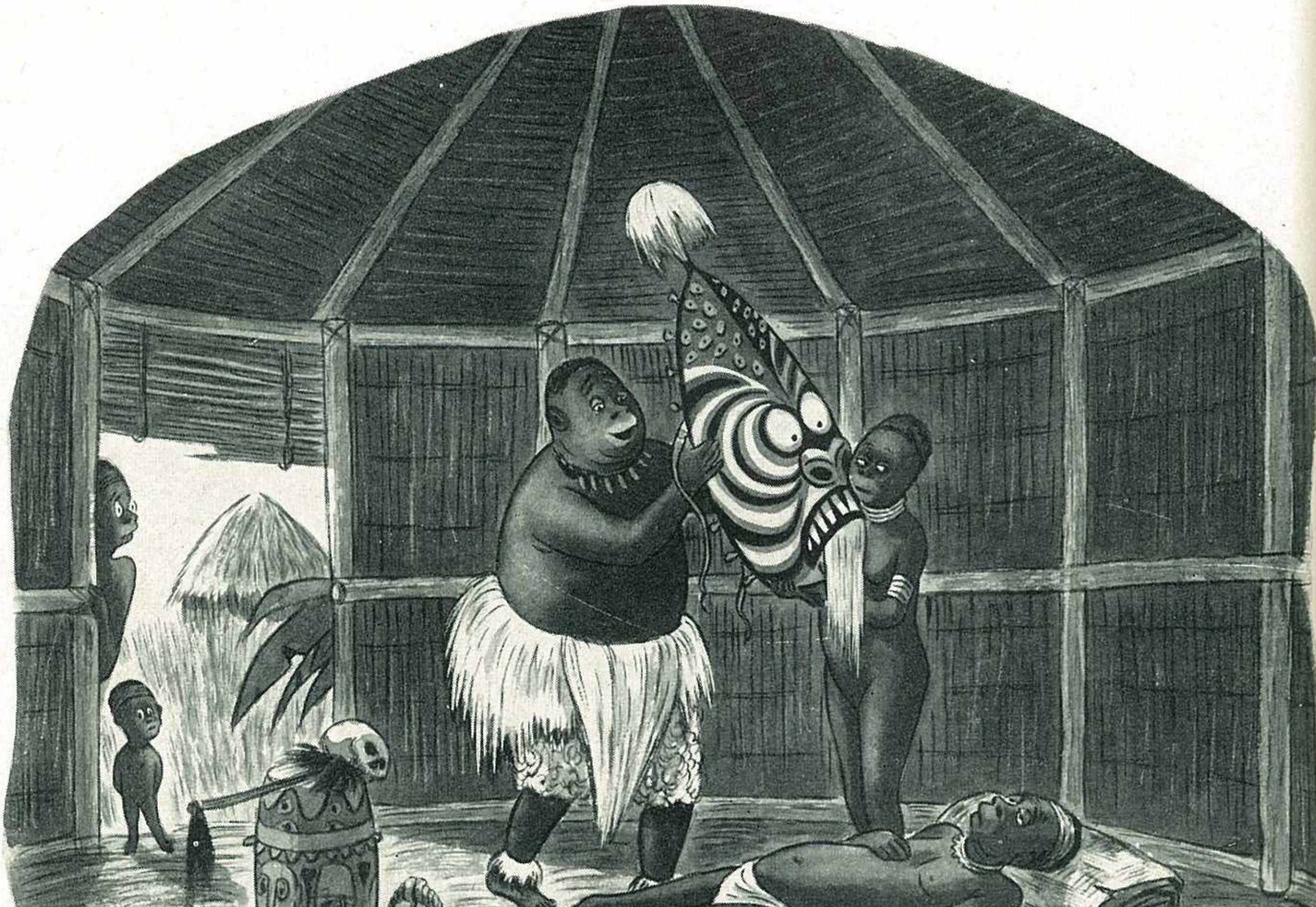

Chas Addams

"Any children?"

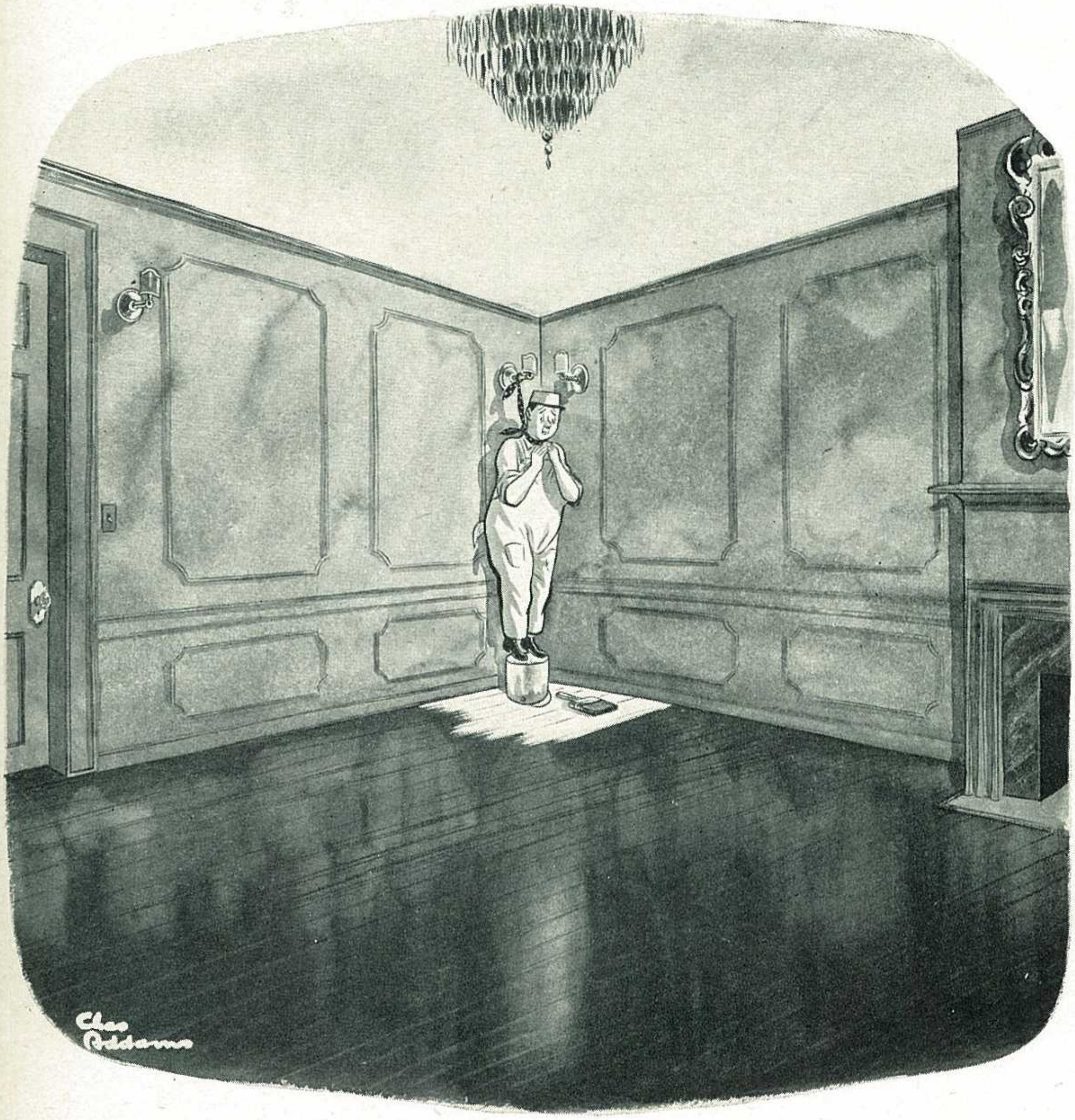

LEARN TO
FLY
$2 PER HR
Chas Addams

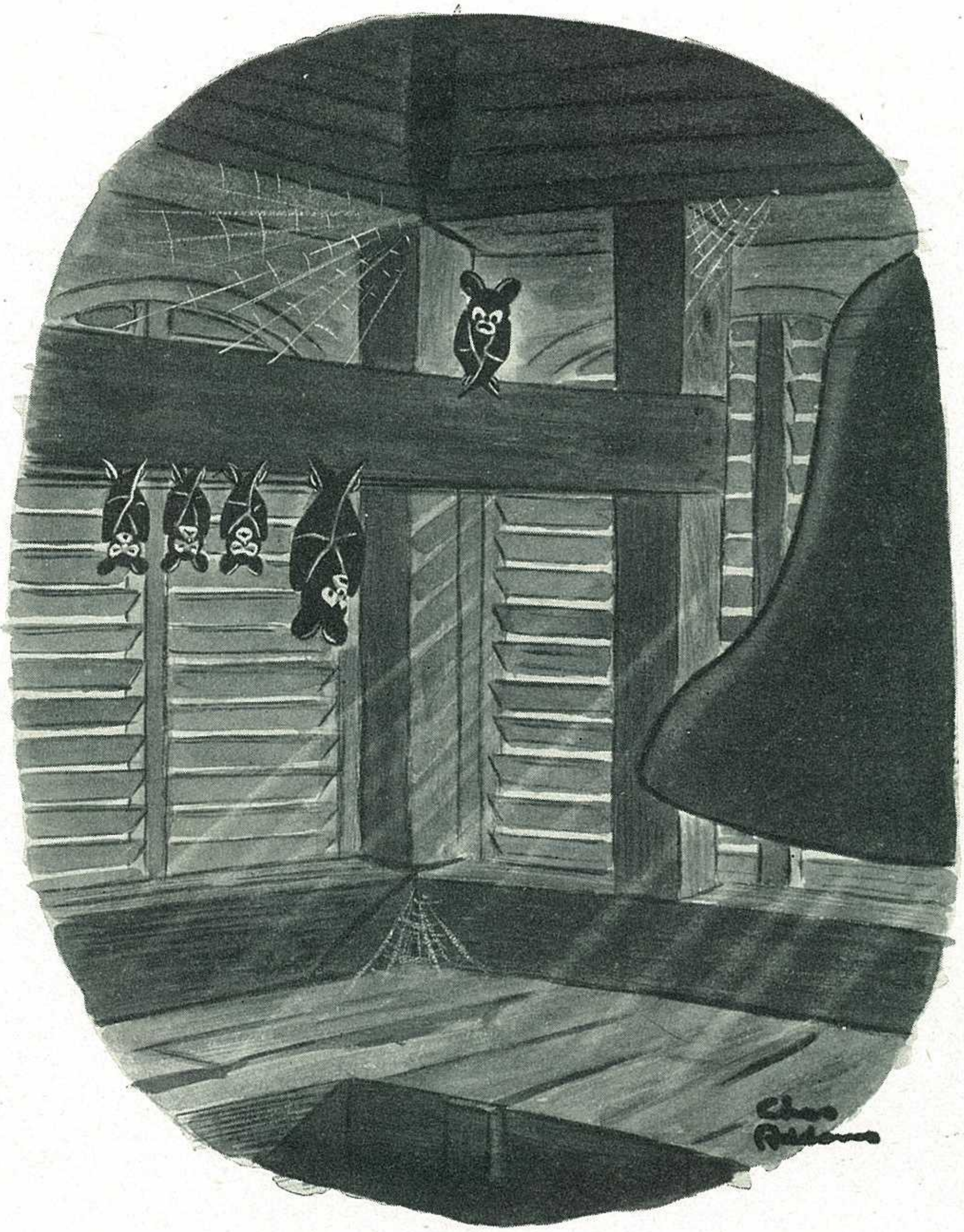

ALL FLAVORS
ICE CREAM SANDWICH 10¢
Chas Addams

"Another vanilla, Benny."

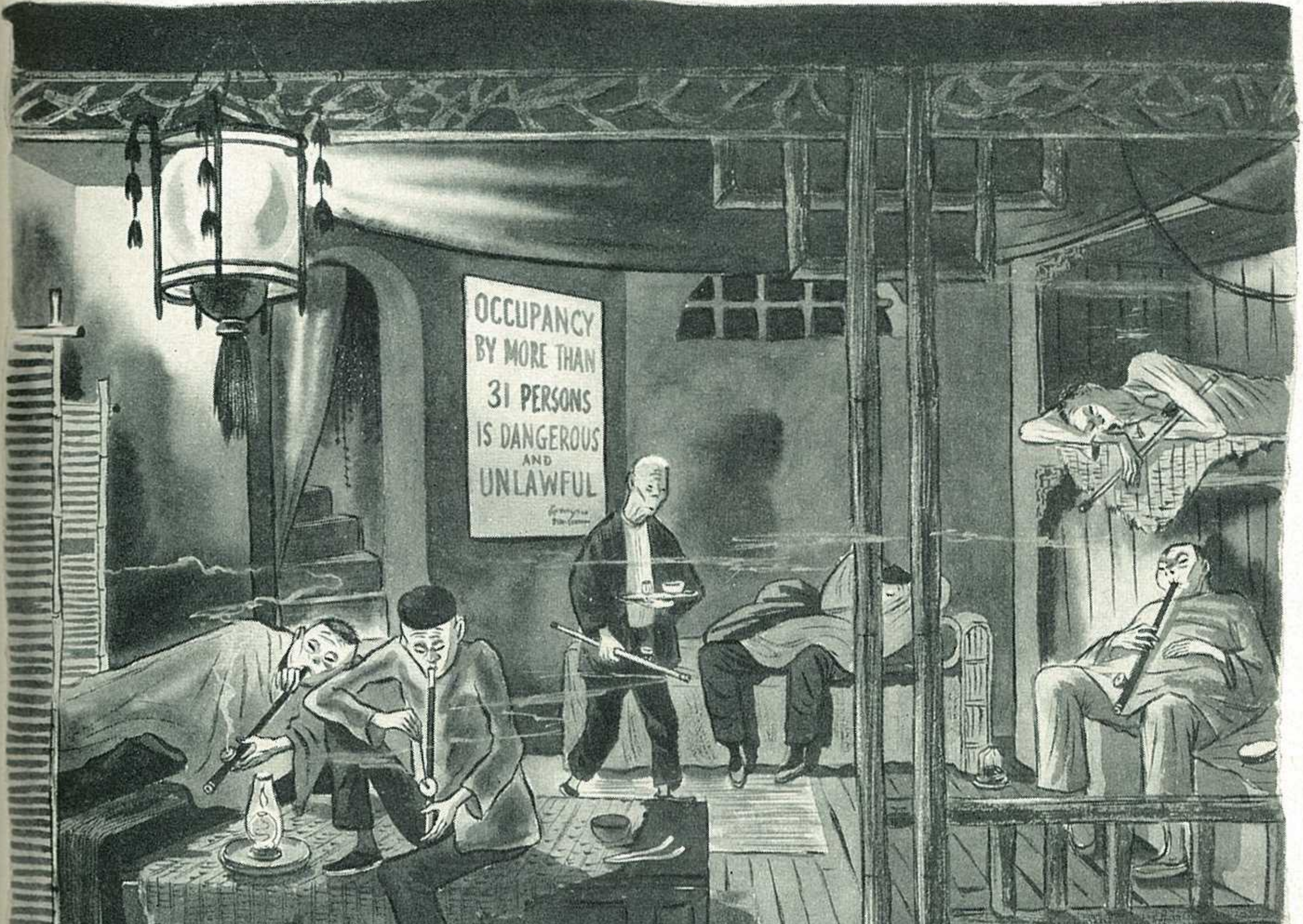

Chas Addams

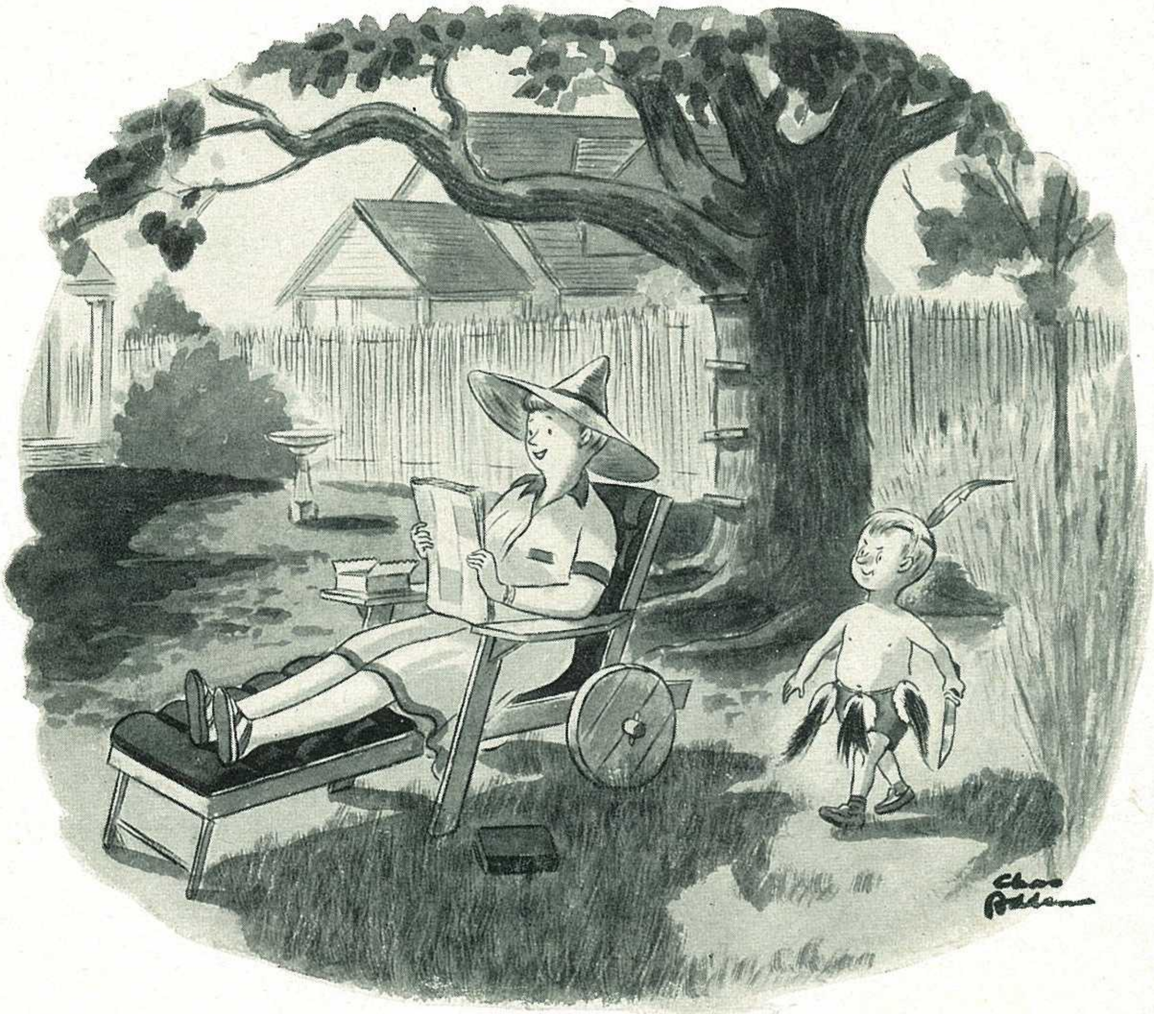
"Now, this may frighten you just a little bit."


Chas Addams

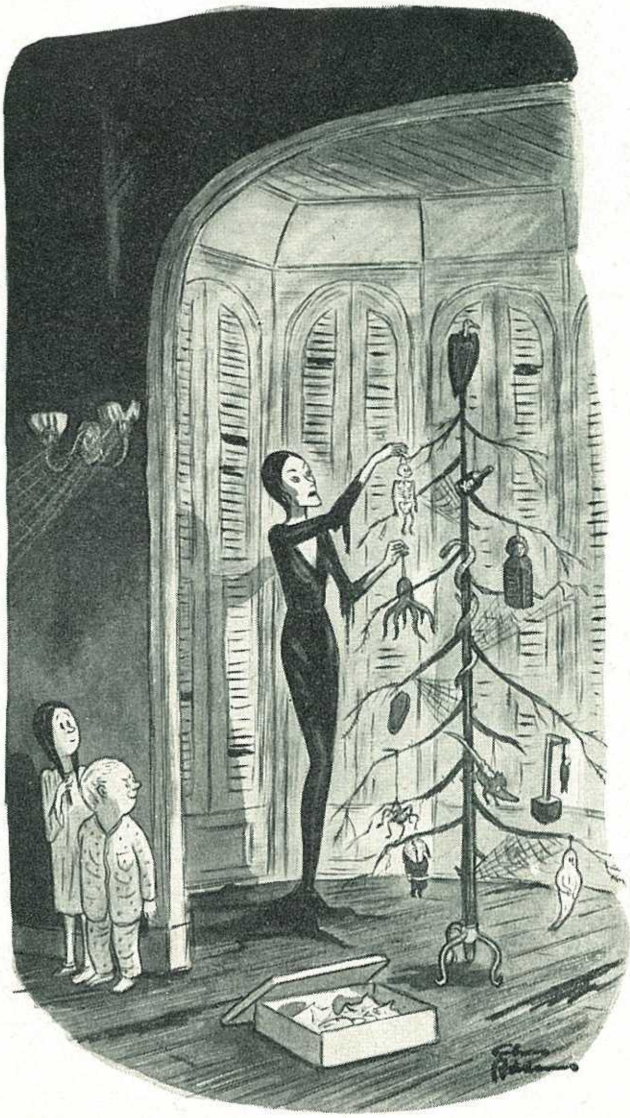

Chas Addams

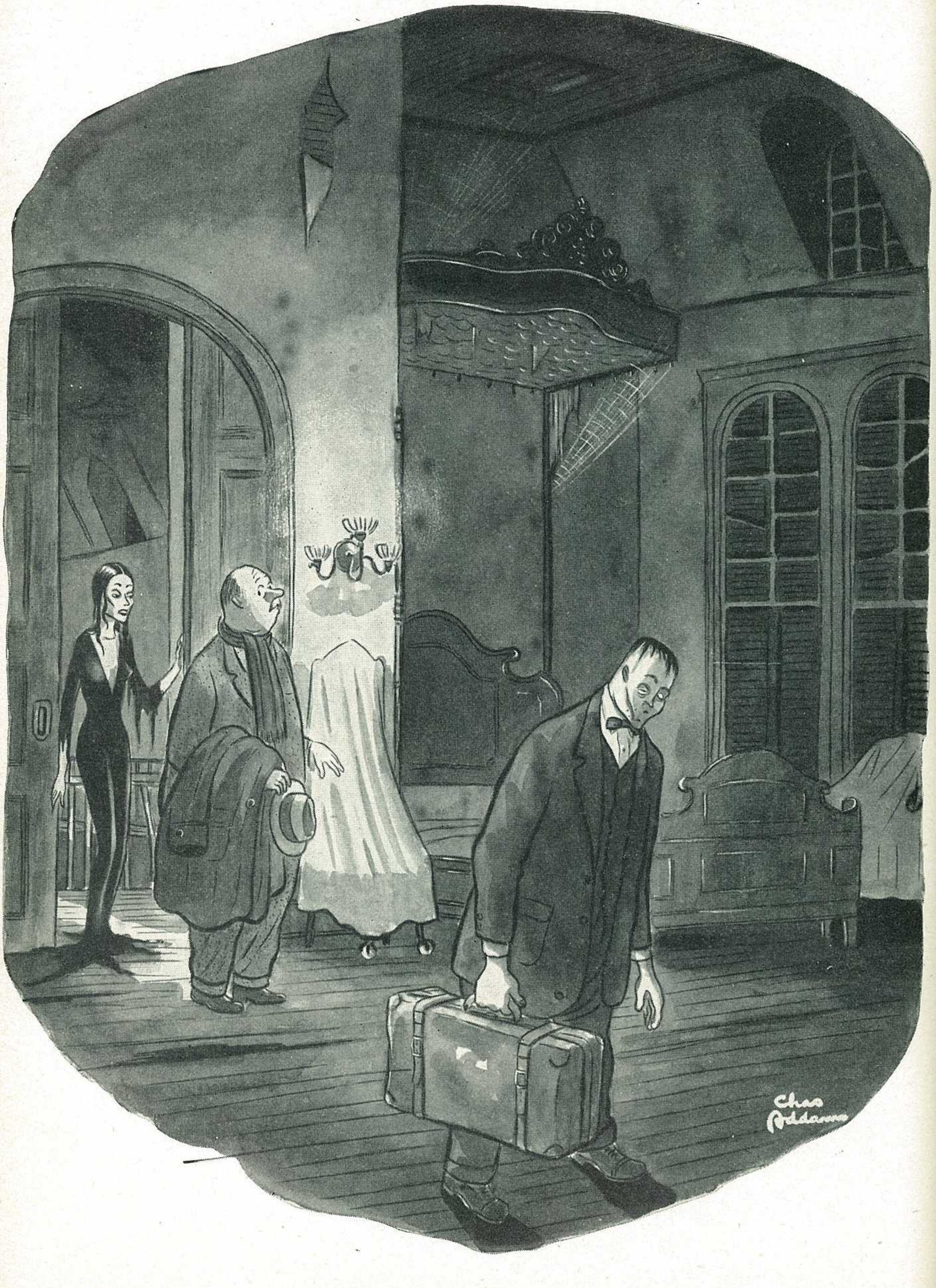
"I tell you, Mama, the blood keeps going to my head."


OCCUPANCY BY MORE THAN 31 PERSONS IS DANGEROUS AND UNLAWFUL
Chas Addams

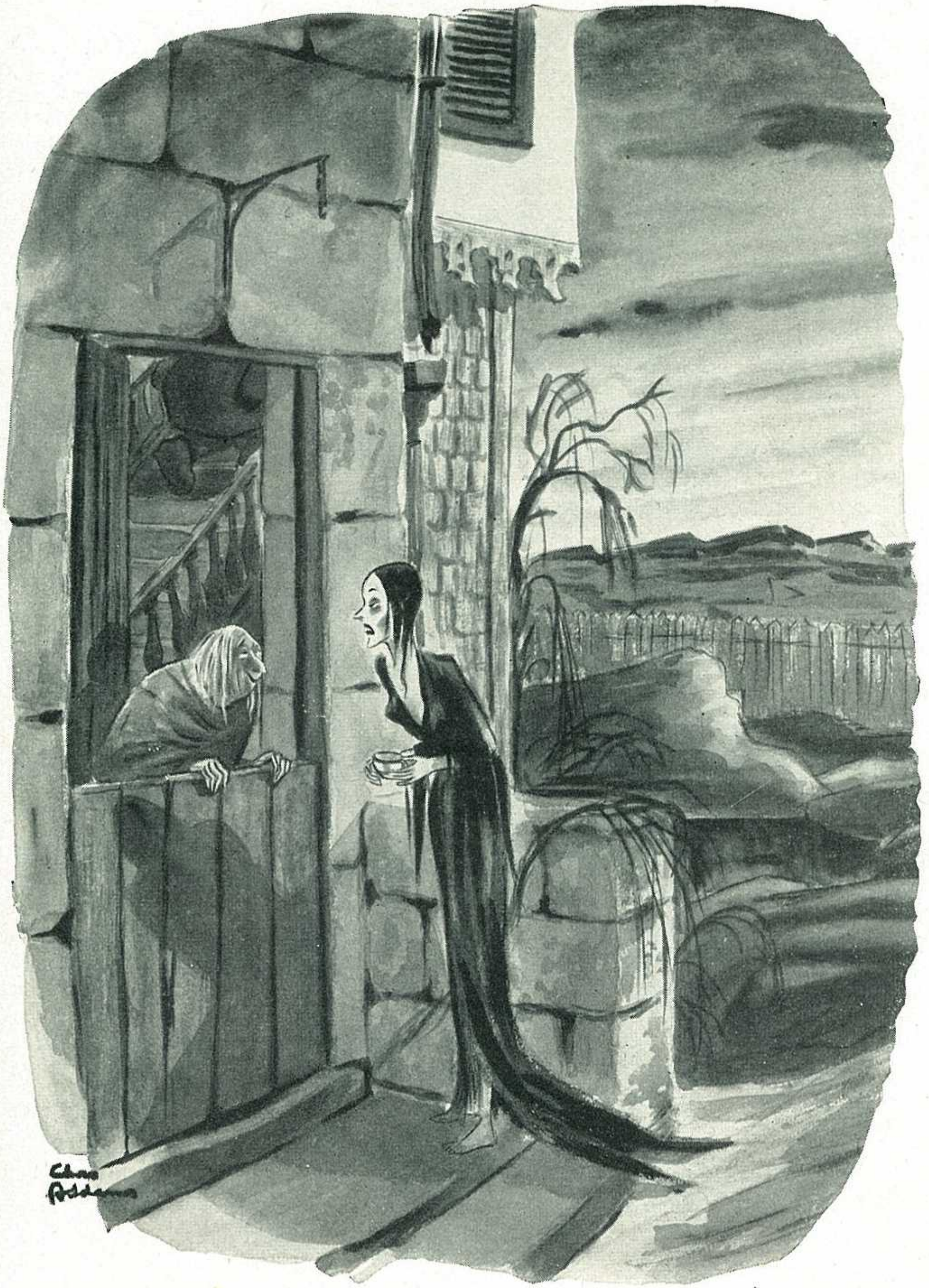

Chas Addams

"Well, dear, was it fun playing Indian?"

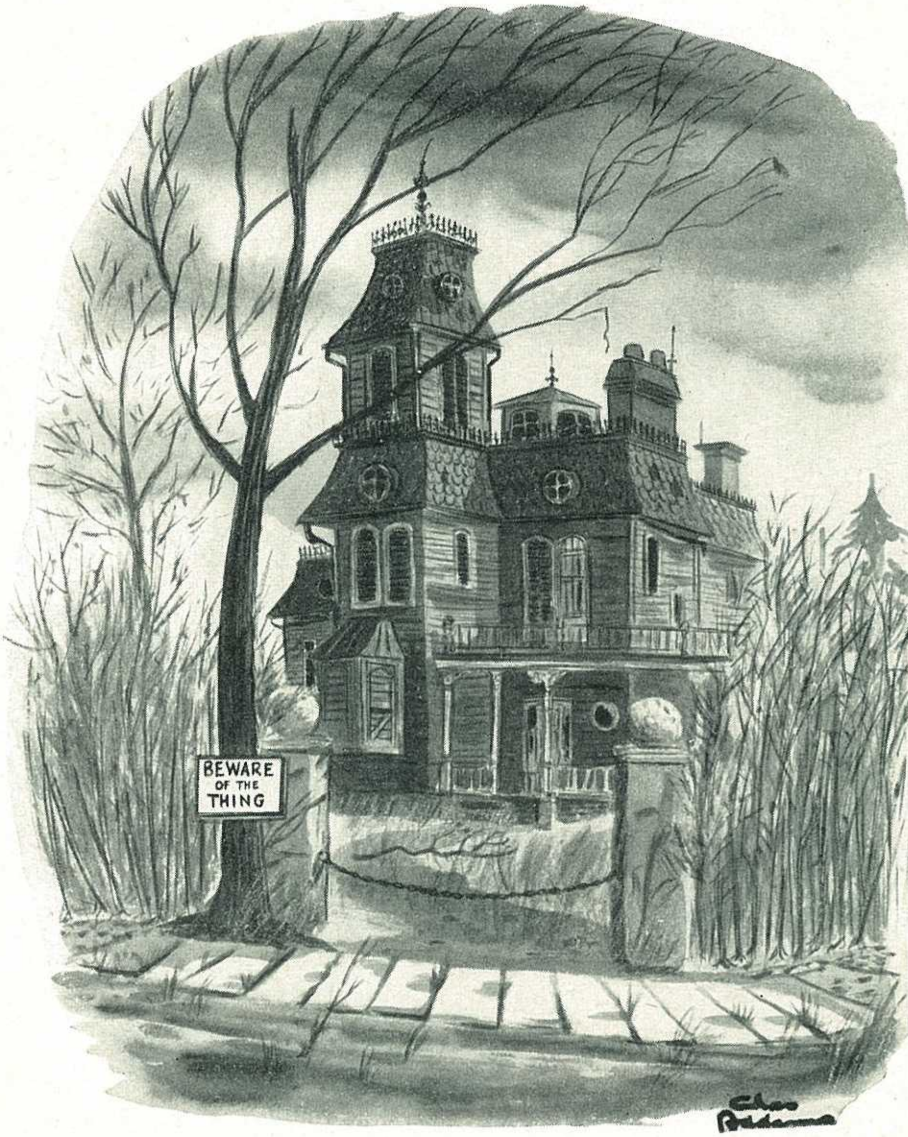

Chas Addams


Chas Addams

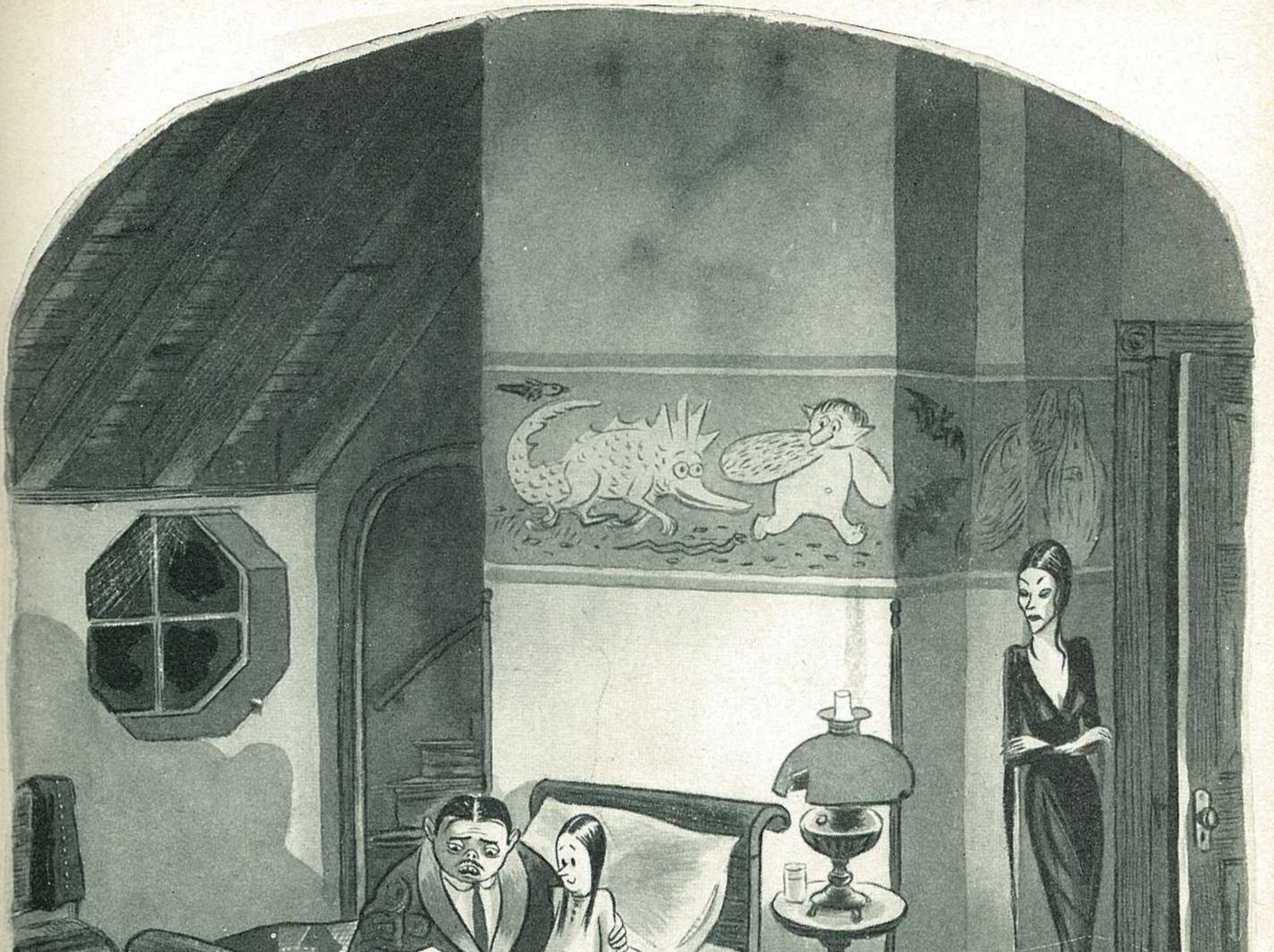
"This is your room. If you should need anything, just scream."


Chas Addams

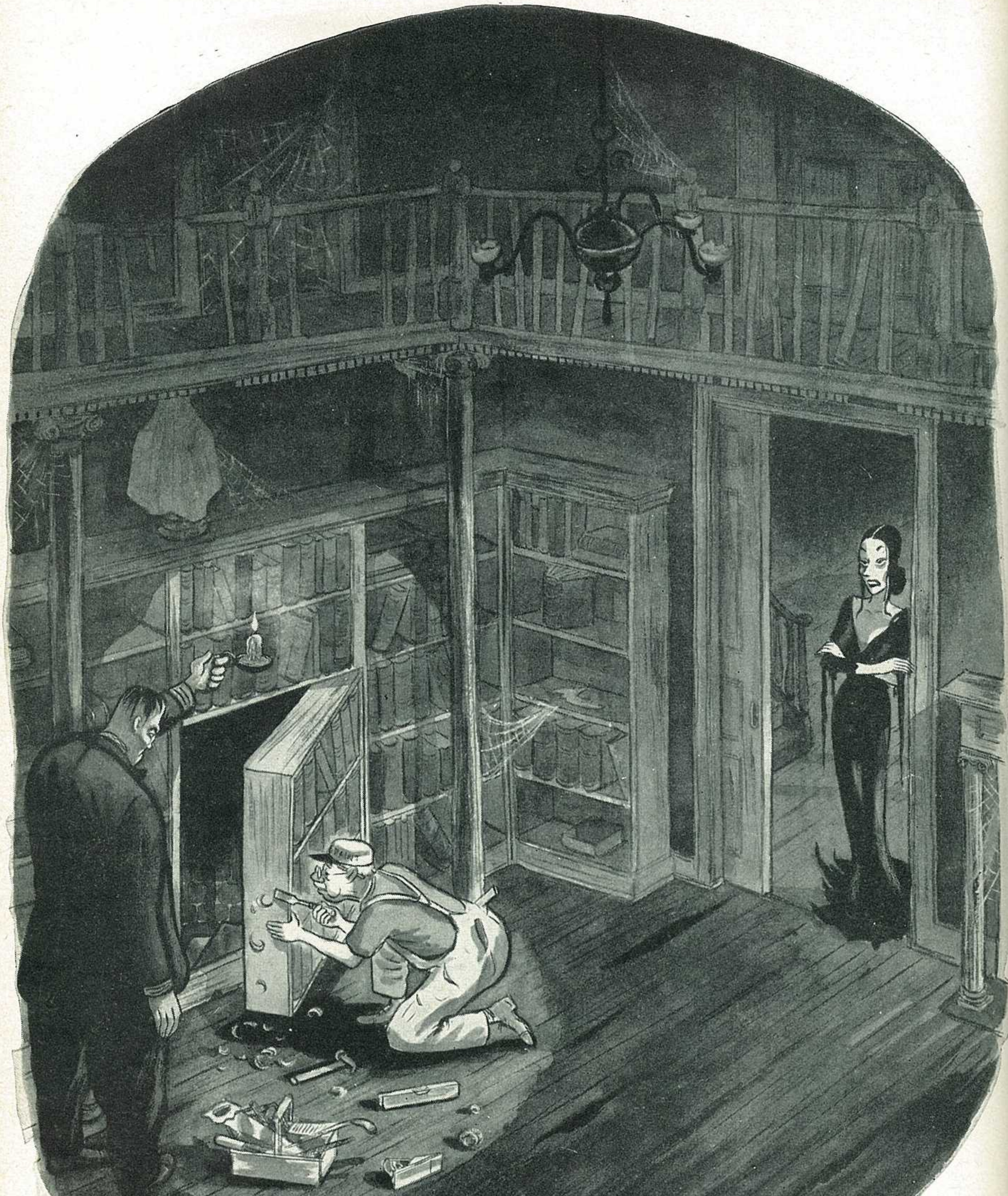
"May I borrow a cup of cyanide?"



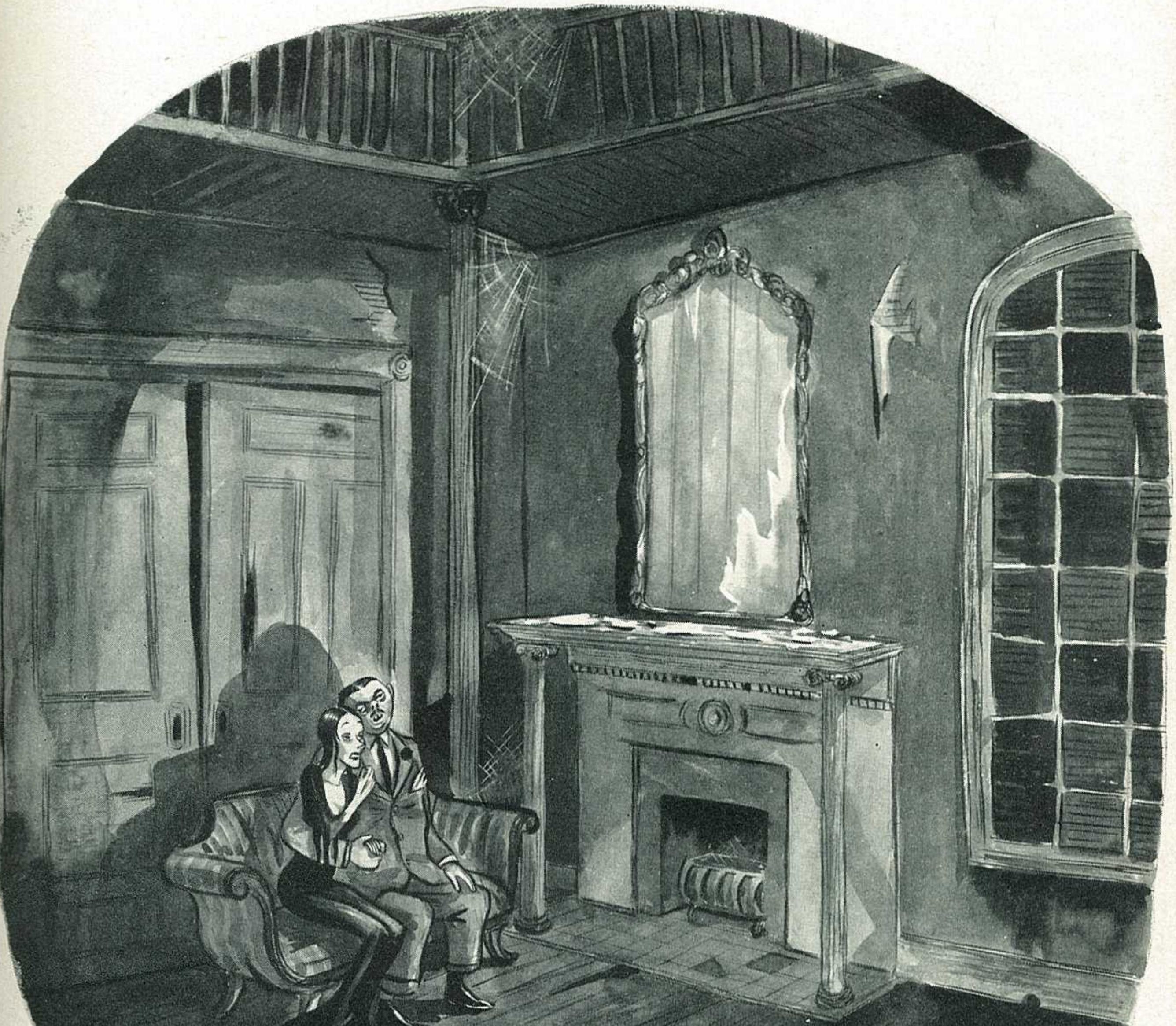
BEWARE OF THE THING
Chas Addams



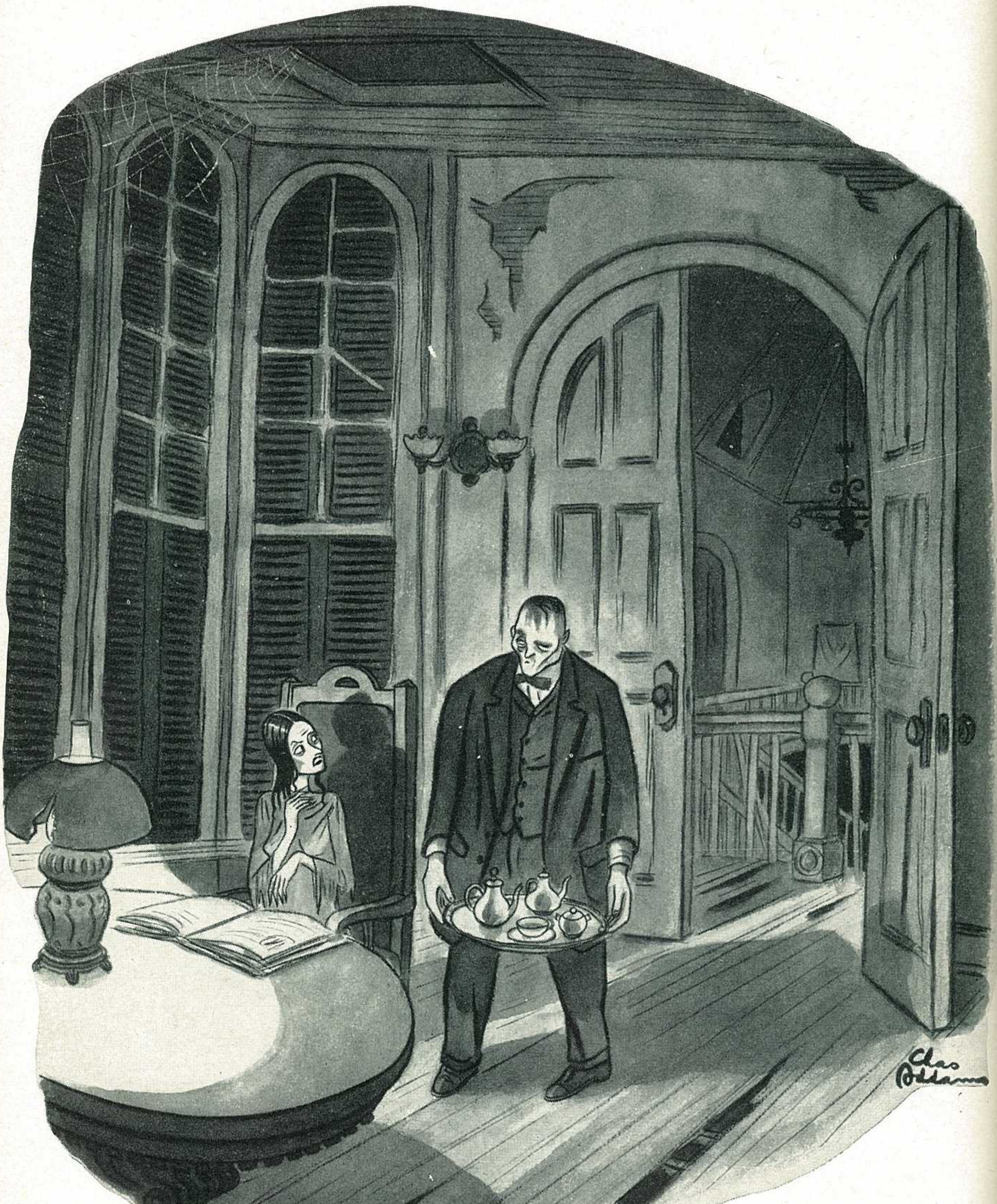
"This little piggy went to market,
This little piggy stayed home,
This little piggy had roast beef,
This little piggy had none,
This little piggy went wee wee wee all the way home,
And this little piggy . . ."


Chas Addams

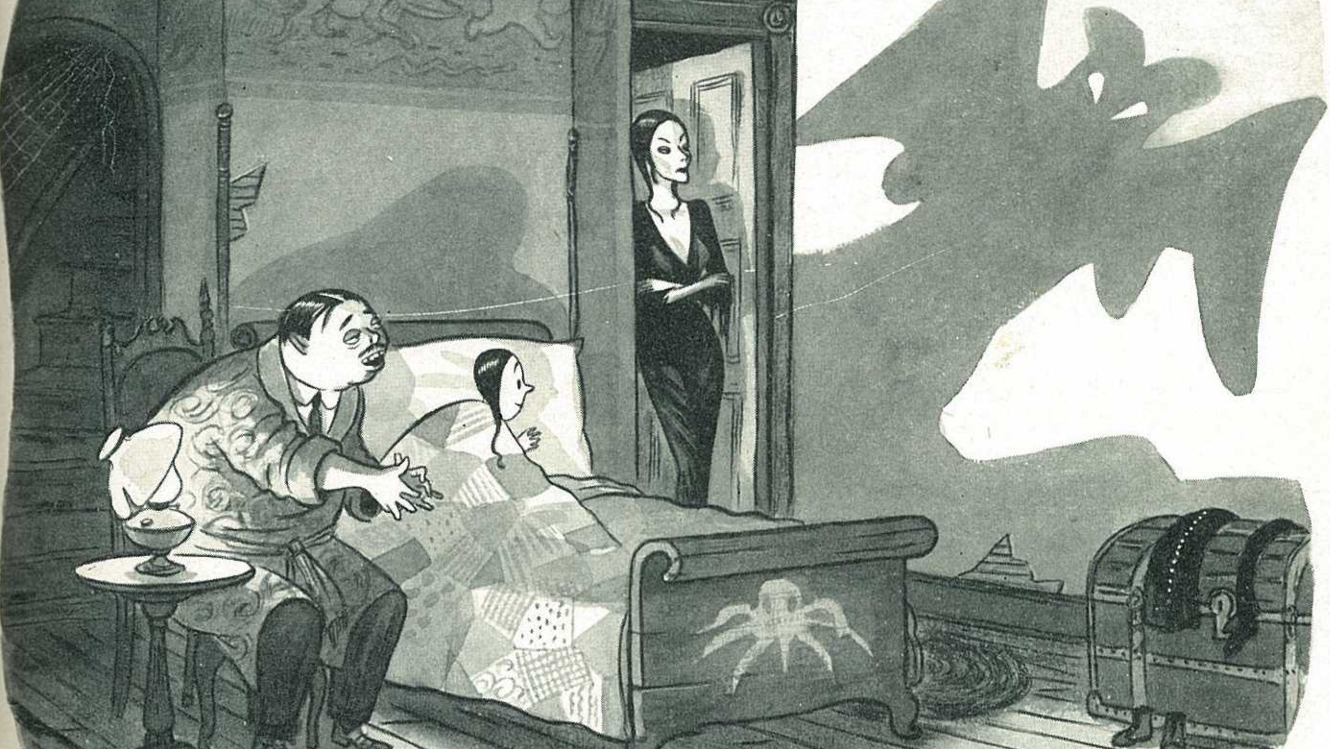
"While you're here, there's a squeaky trap door I'd like you to look at."

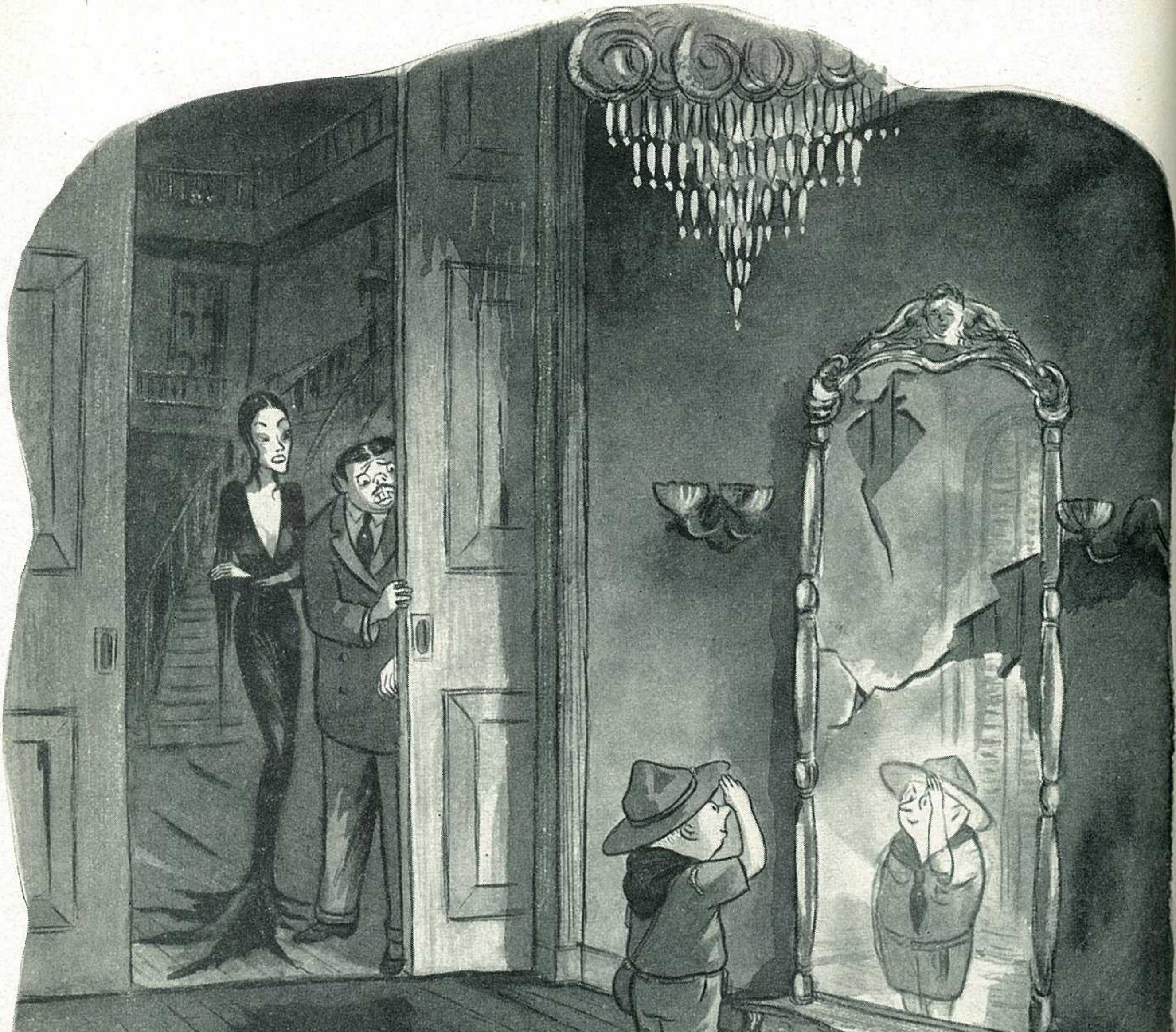

Chas Addams

"Are you unhappy, darling?"
"Oh, yes, yes! Completely."

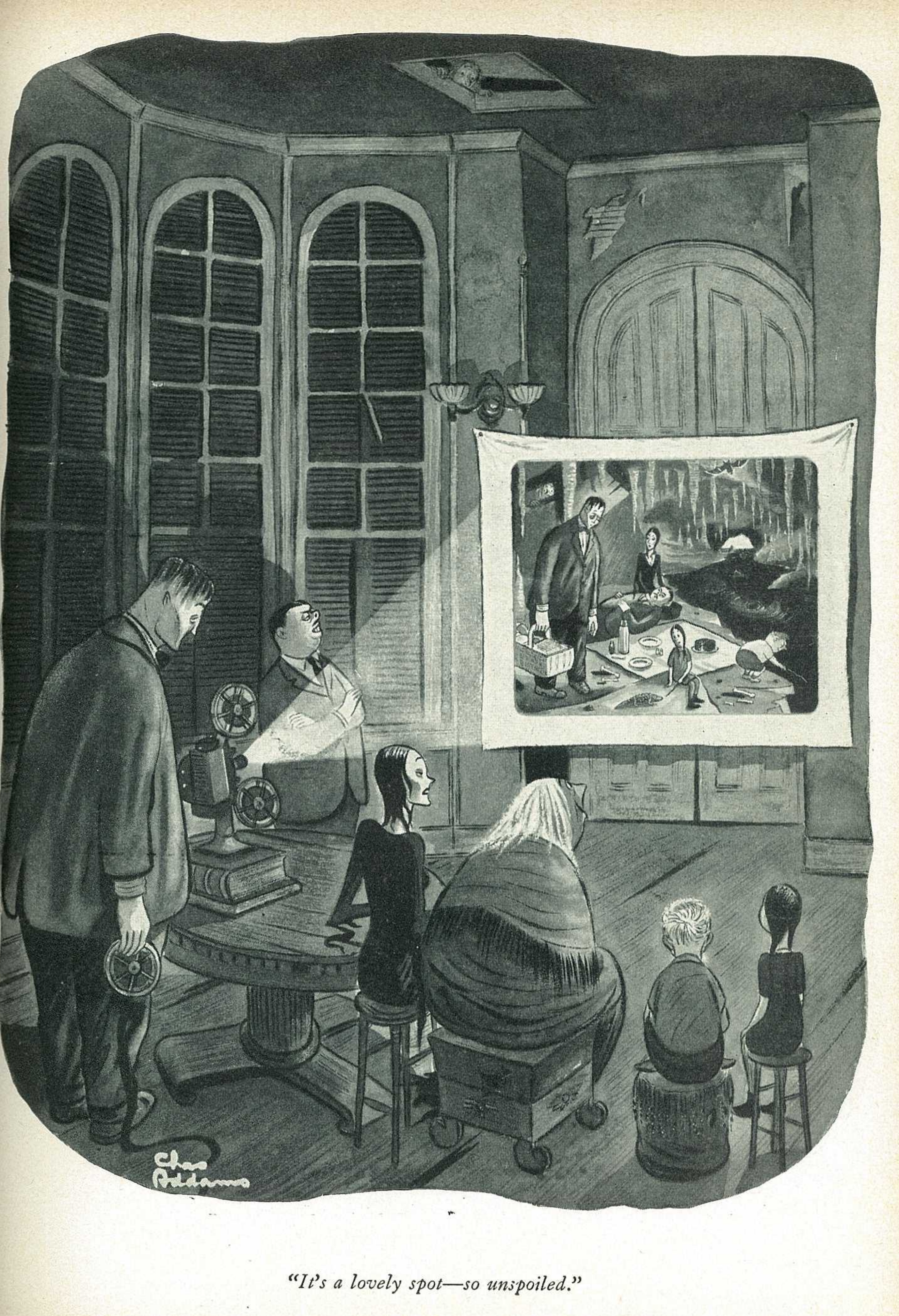


“Oh, it’s you! For a moment you gave me quite a start.”

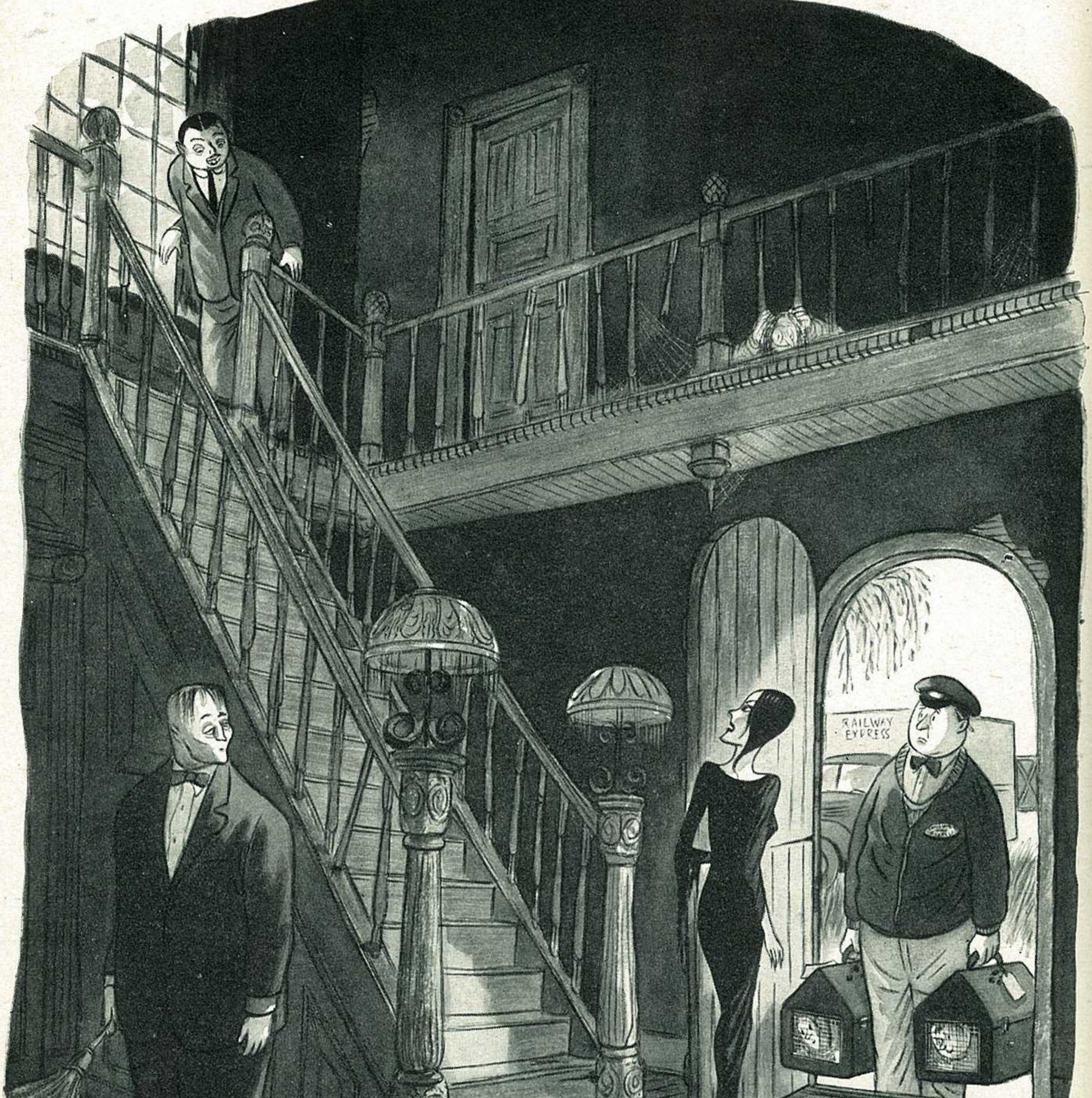

Chas Addams


Chas Addams

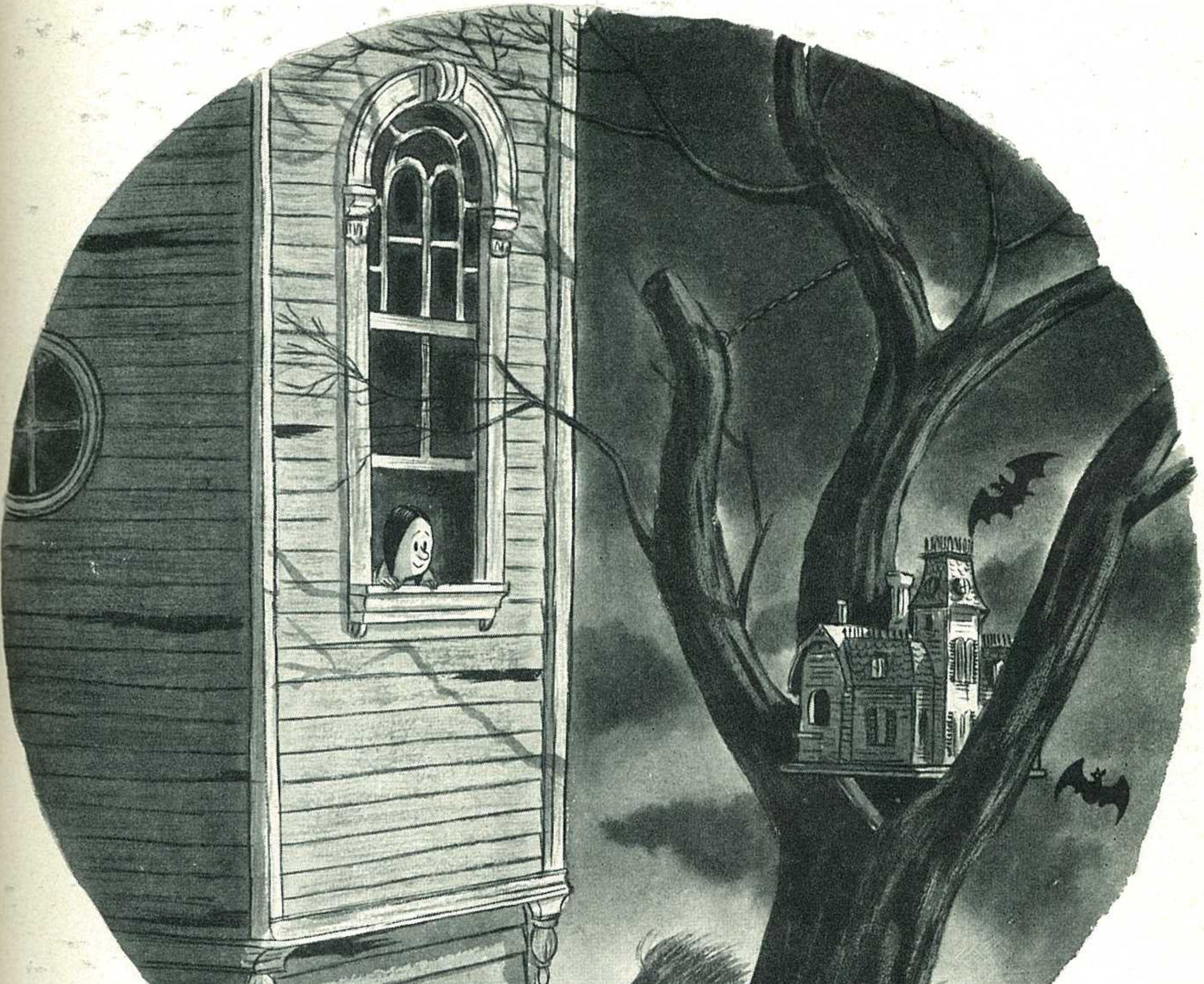
"Well, he certainly doesn't take after my side of the family."

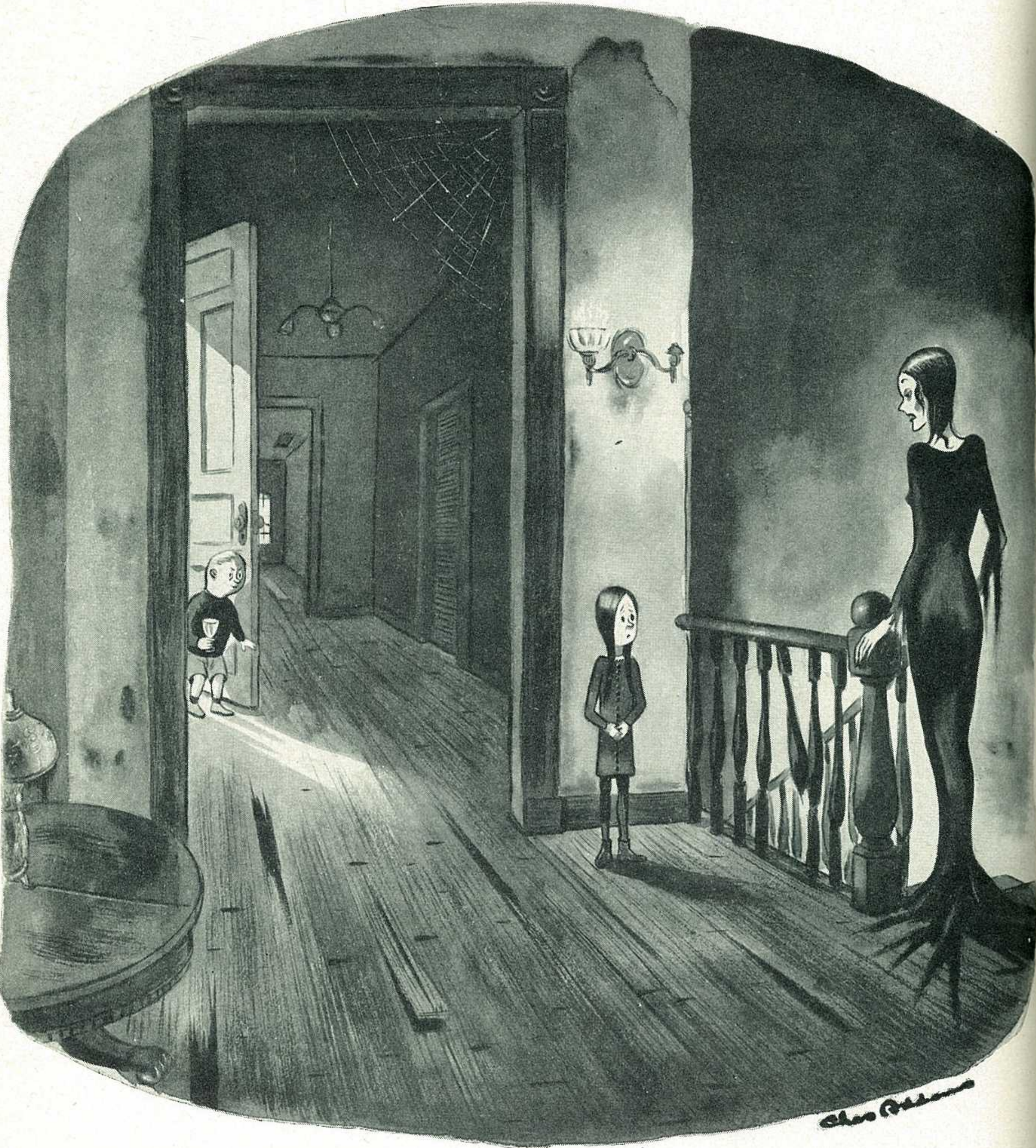

Chas Addams

"It's a lovely spot—so unspoiled."

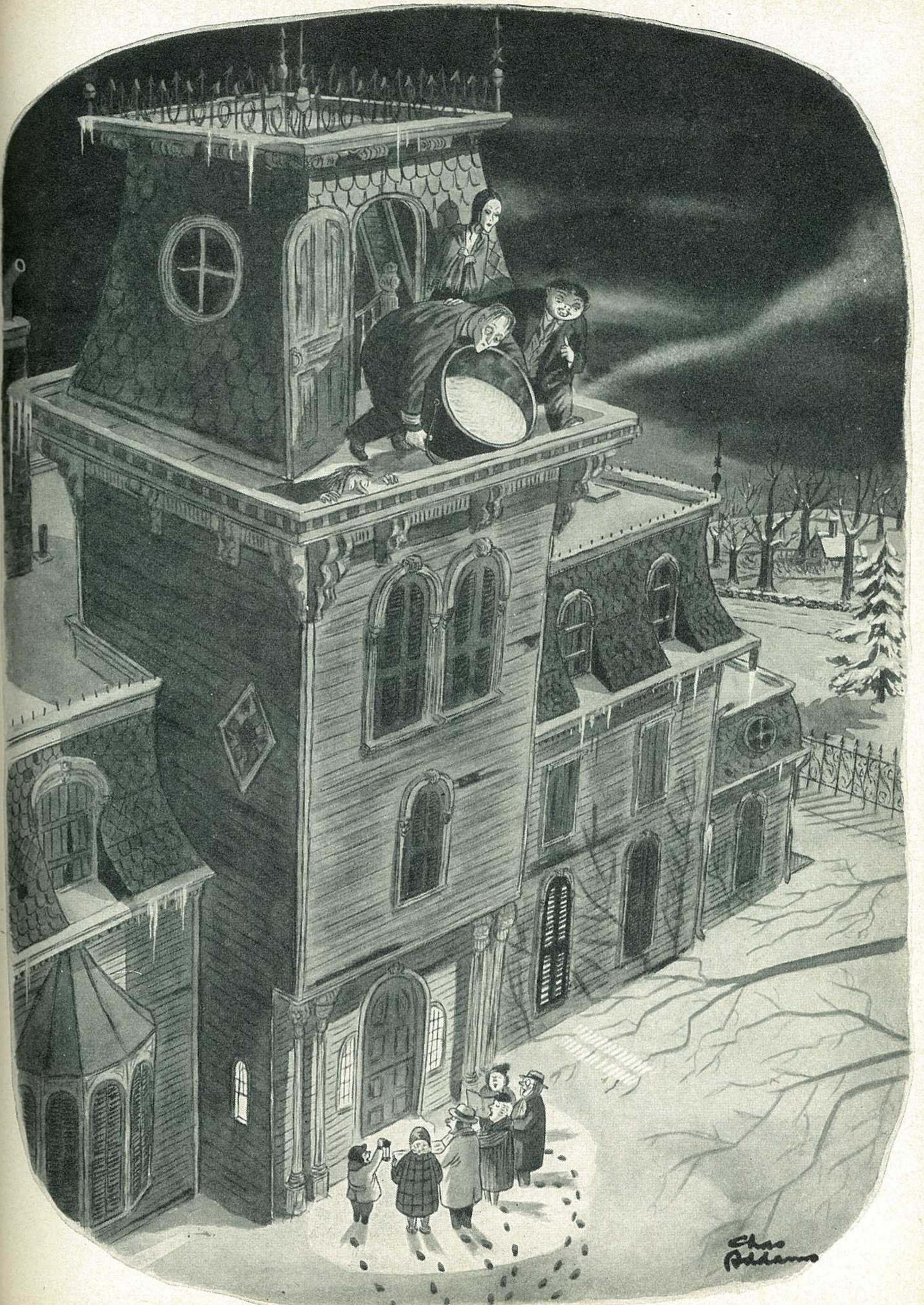

RAILWAY EXPRESS

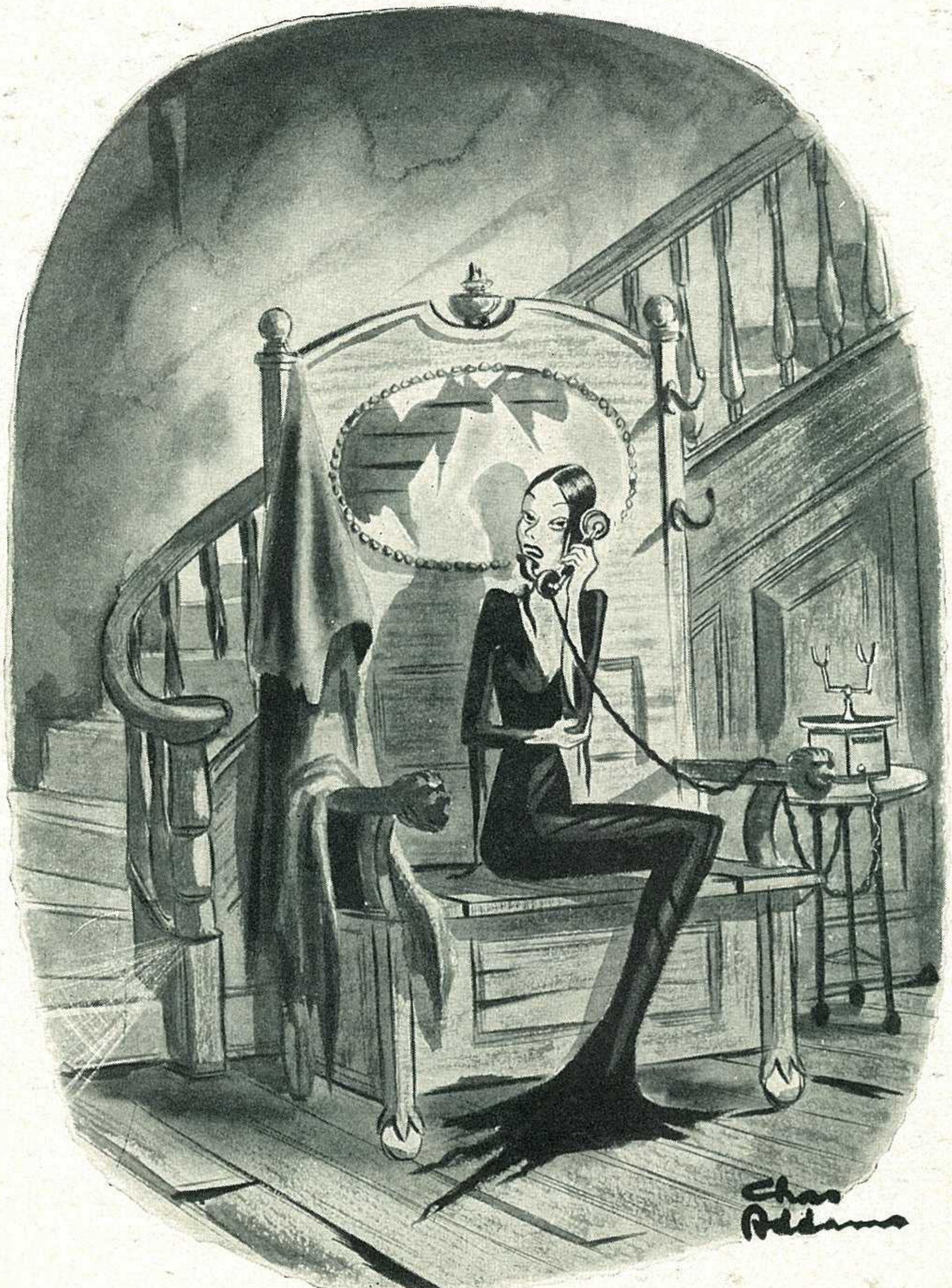
"It's the children, darling, back from camp."


Chas Addams

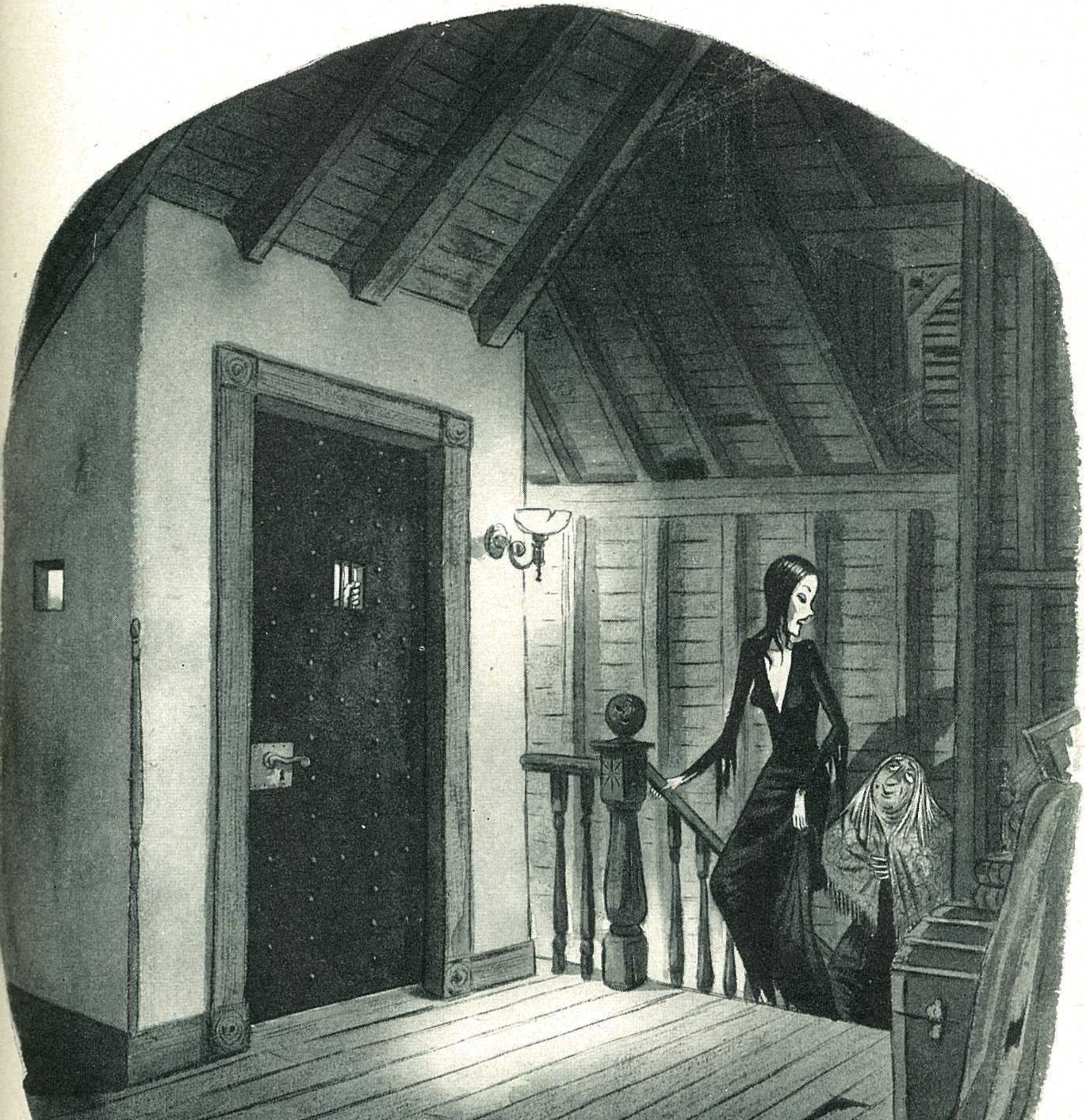


"Well, don't come whining to me. Go tell him you'll poison him right back."


Chas Addams

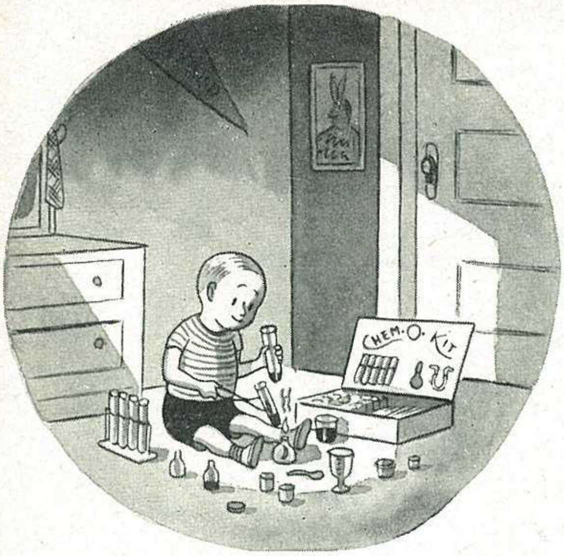

Chas Addams

"Oh, I couldn't make it Friday—I've so many things to do. It's the thirteenth, you know."


Chas Addams

"We've had part of this floor finished off for Uncle Eimar."

1



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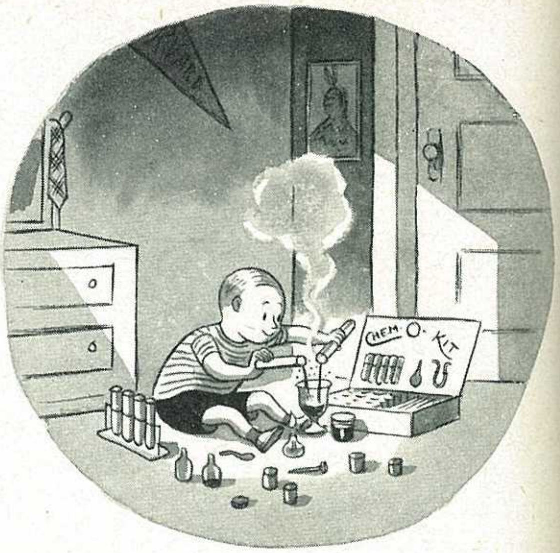

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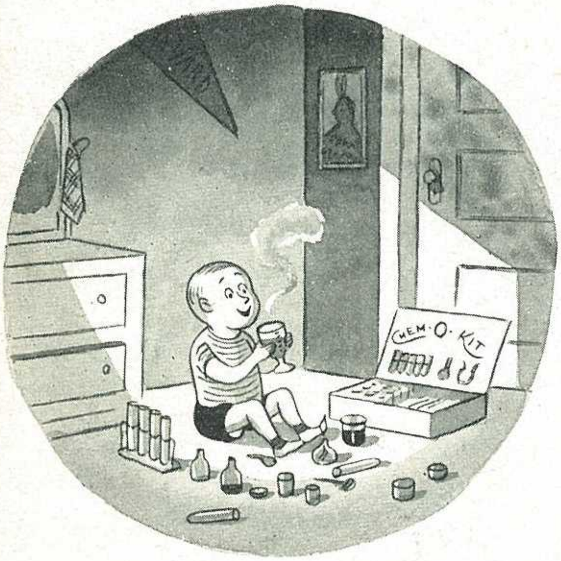

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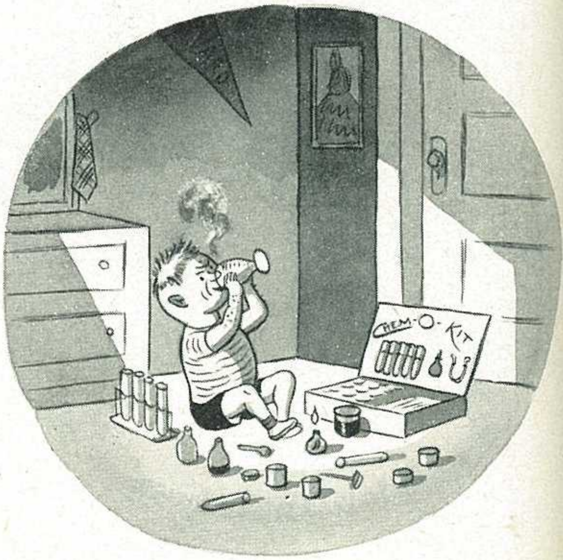

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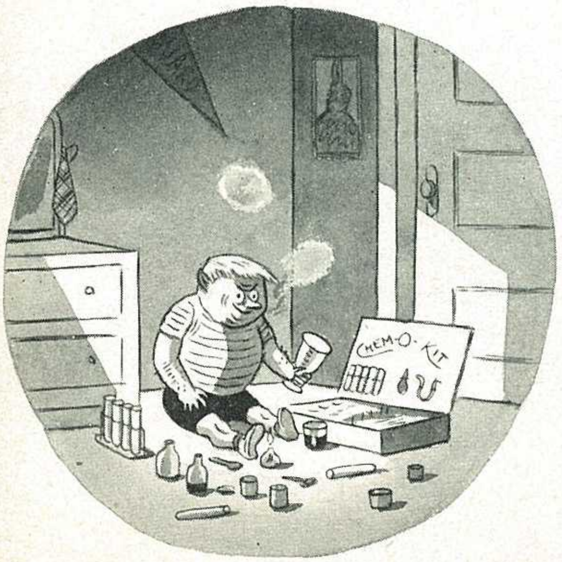

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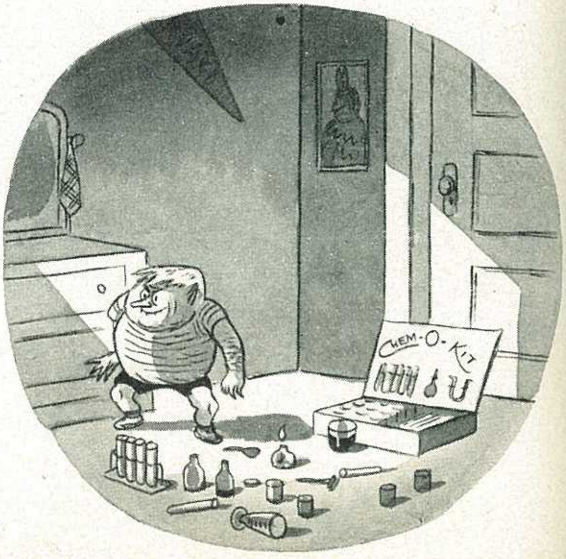

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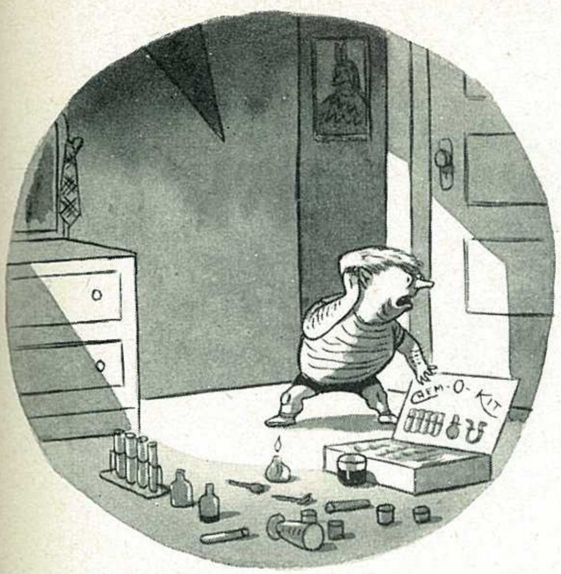
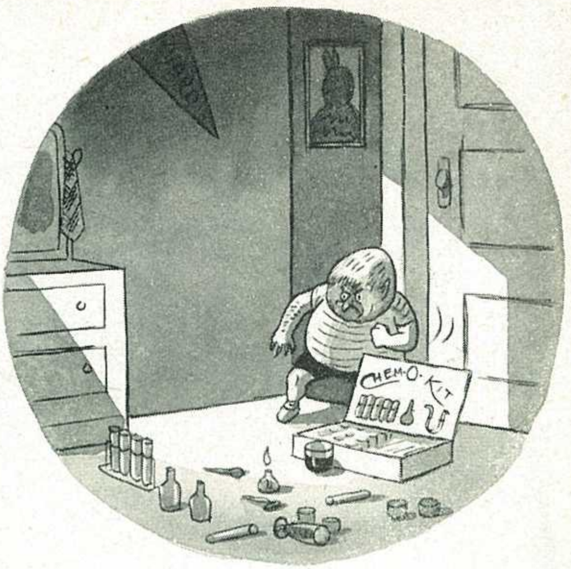

CHEM-O-KIT

8


CHEM-O-KIT

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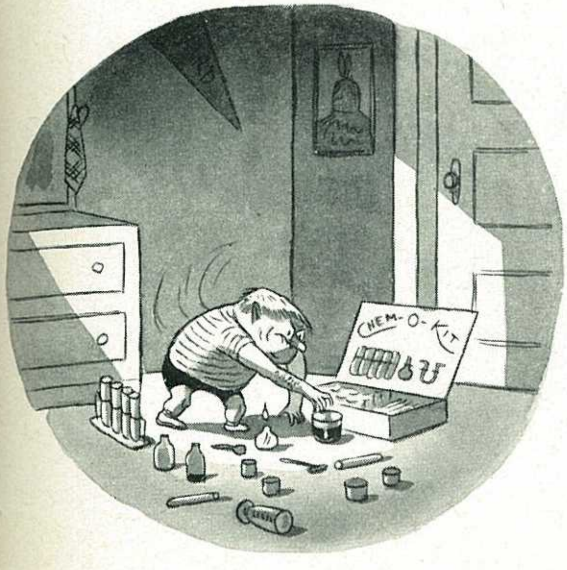
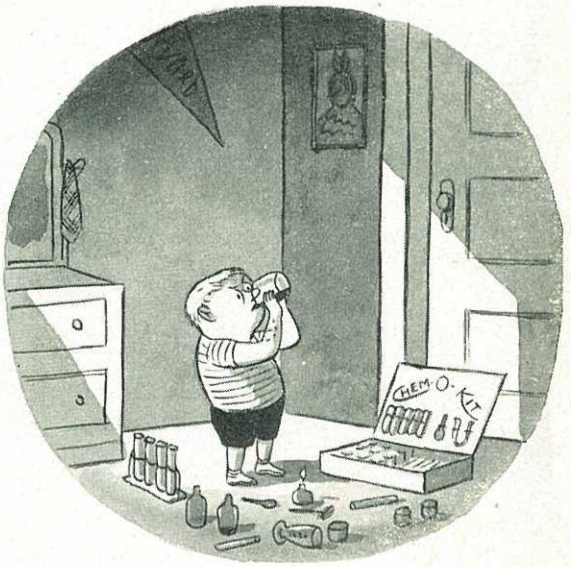
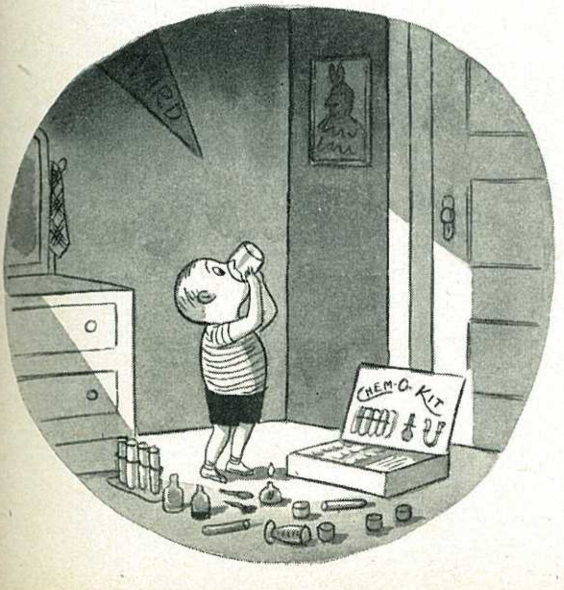

CHEM-O-KIT

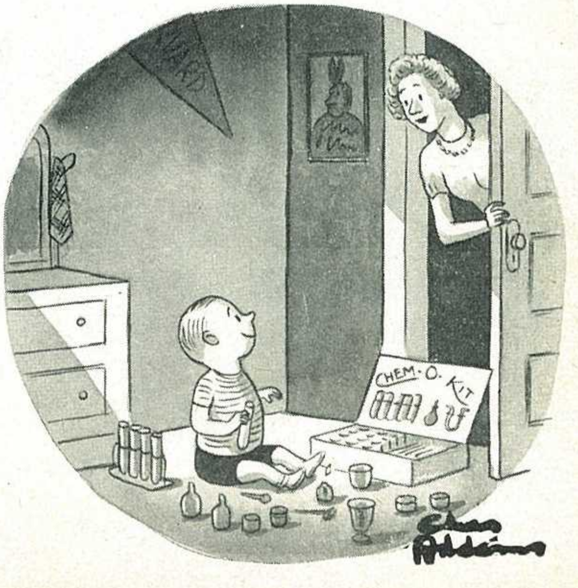
10

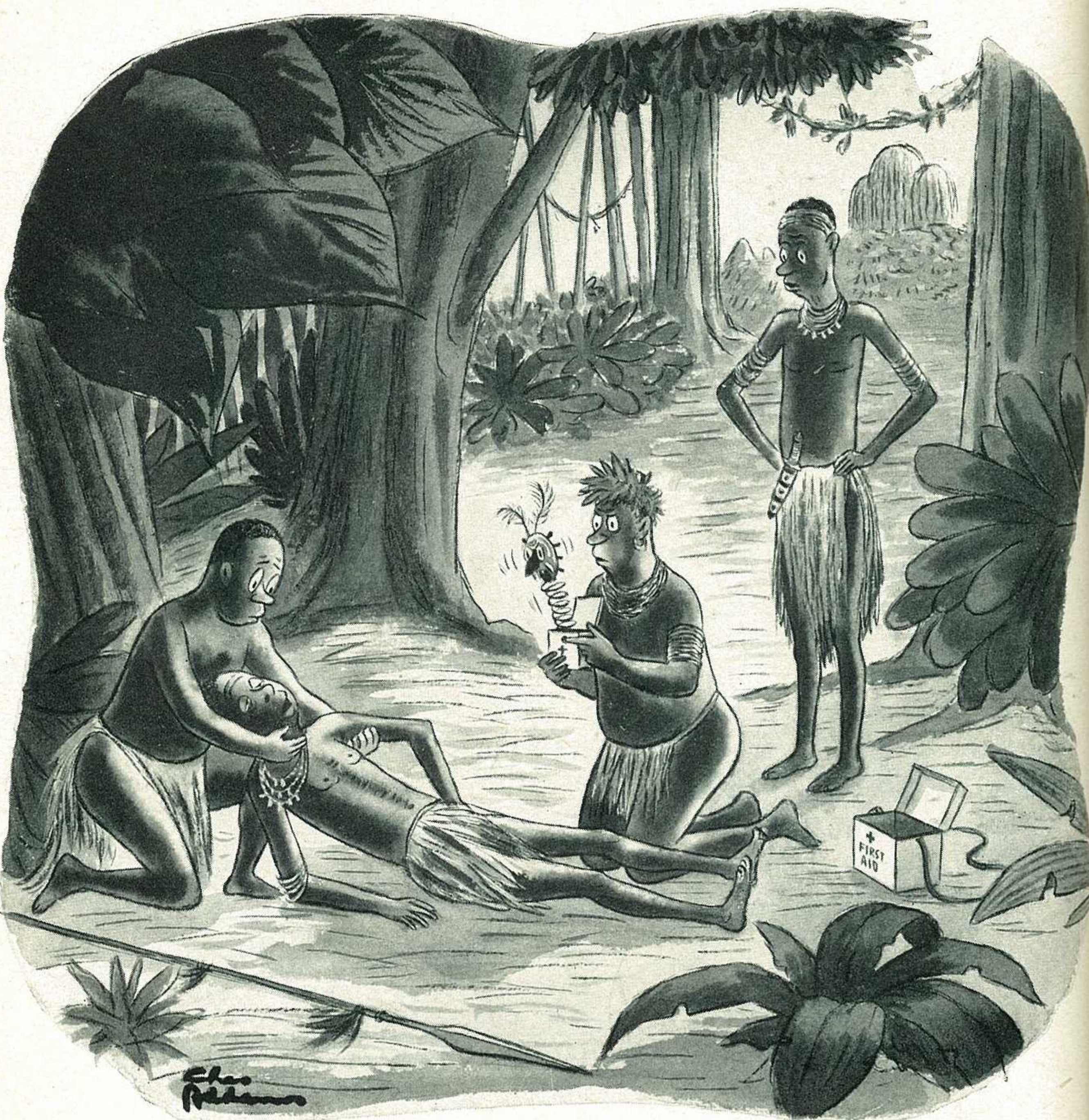

CHEM-O-KIT

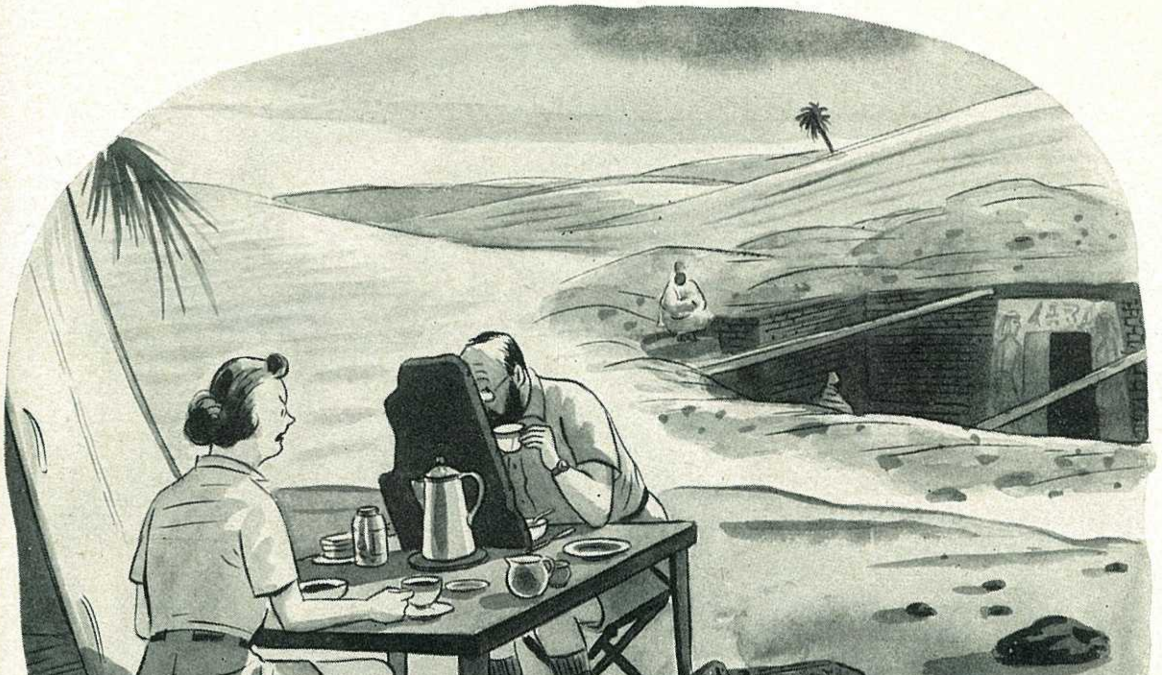
11

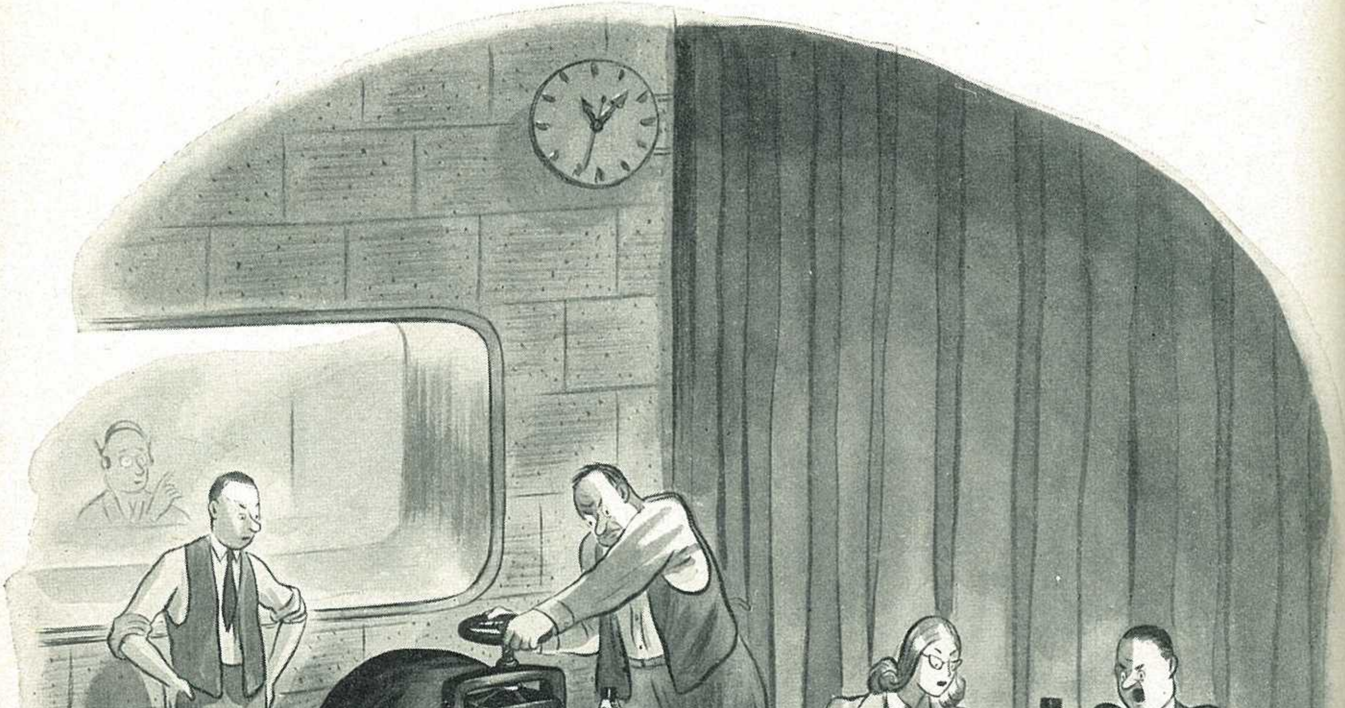

CHEM-O-KIT

12

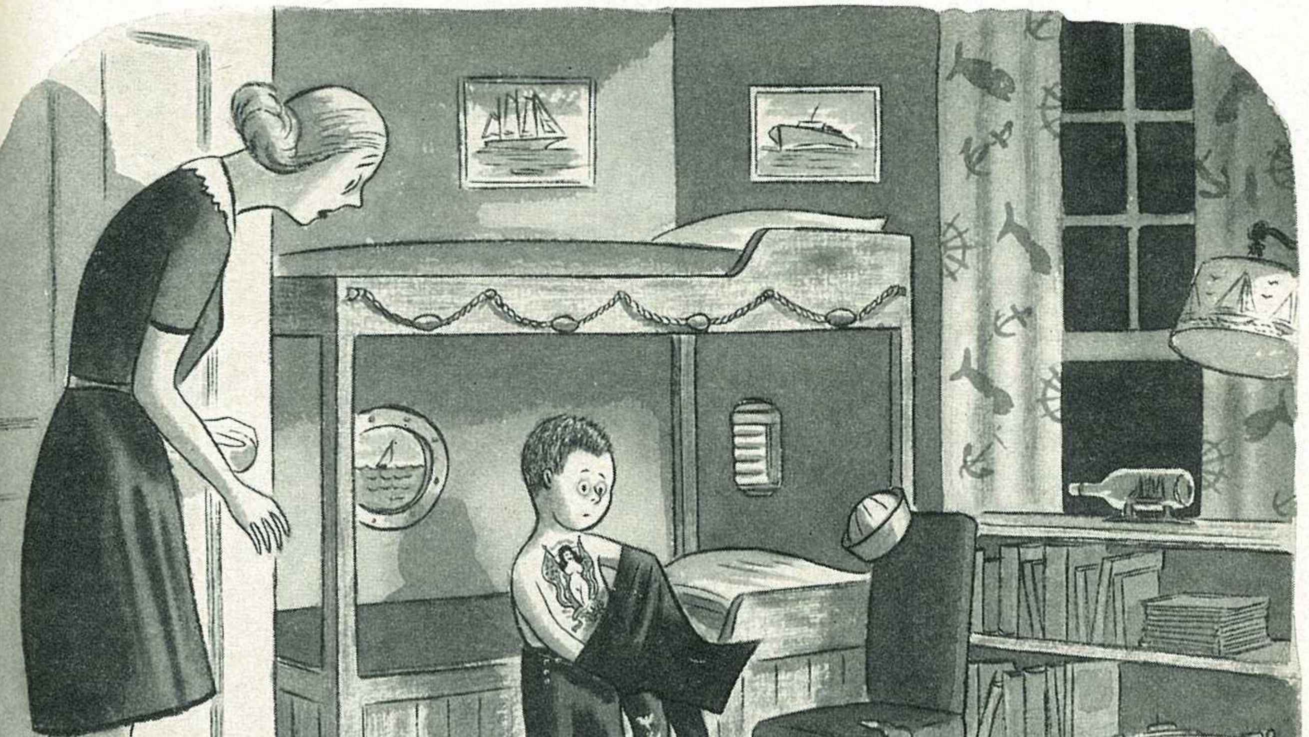

CHEM-O-KIT
Chas Addams


FIRST AID
Chas Addams

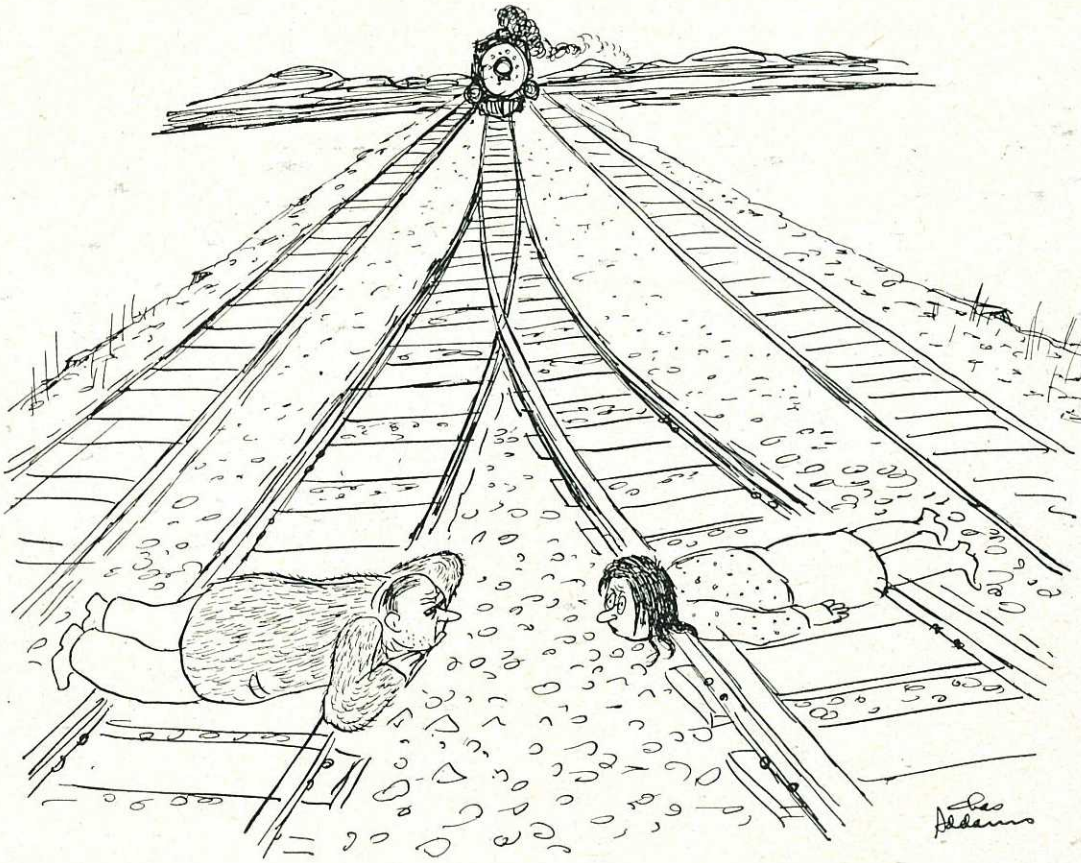

Chas Addams


Chas Addams

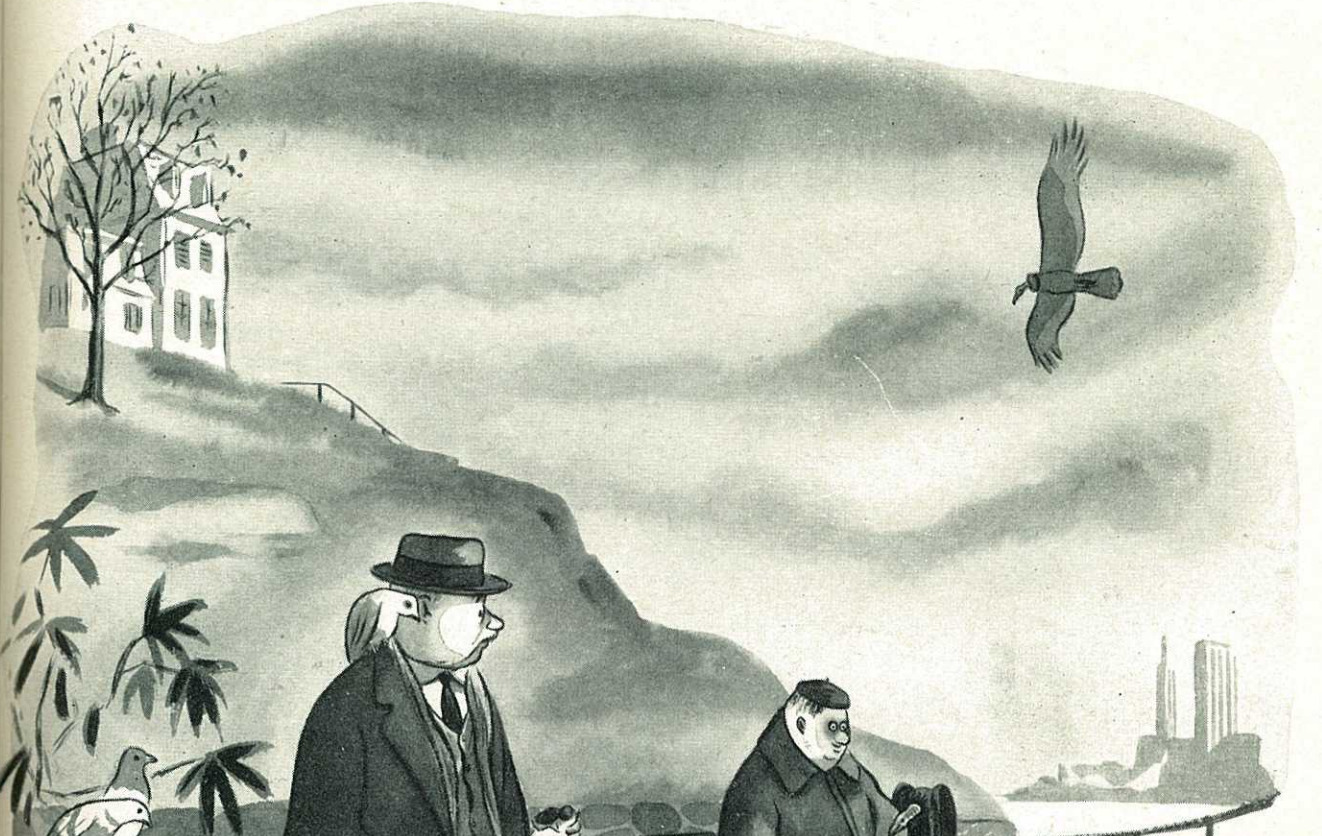
"Listen! Was that a moan I heard?"



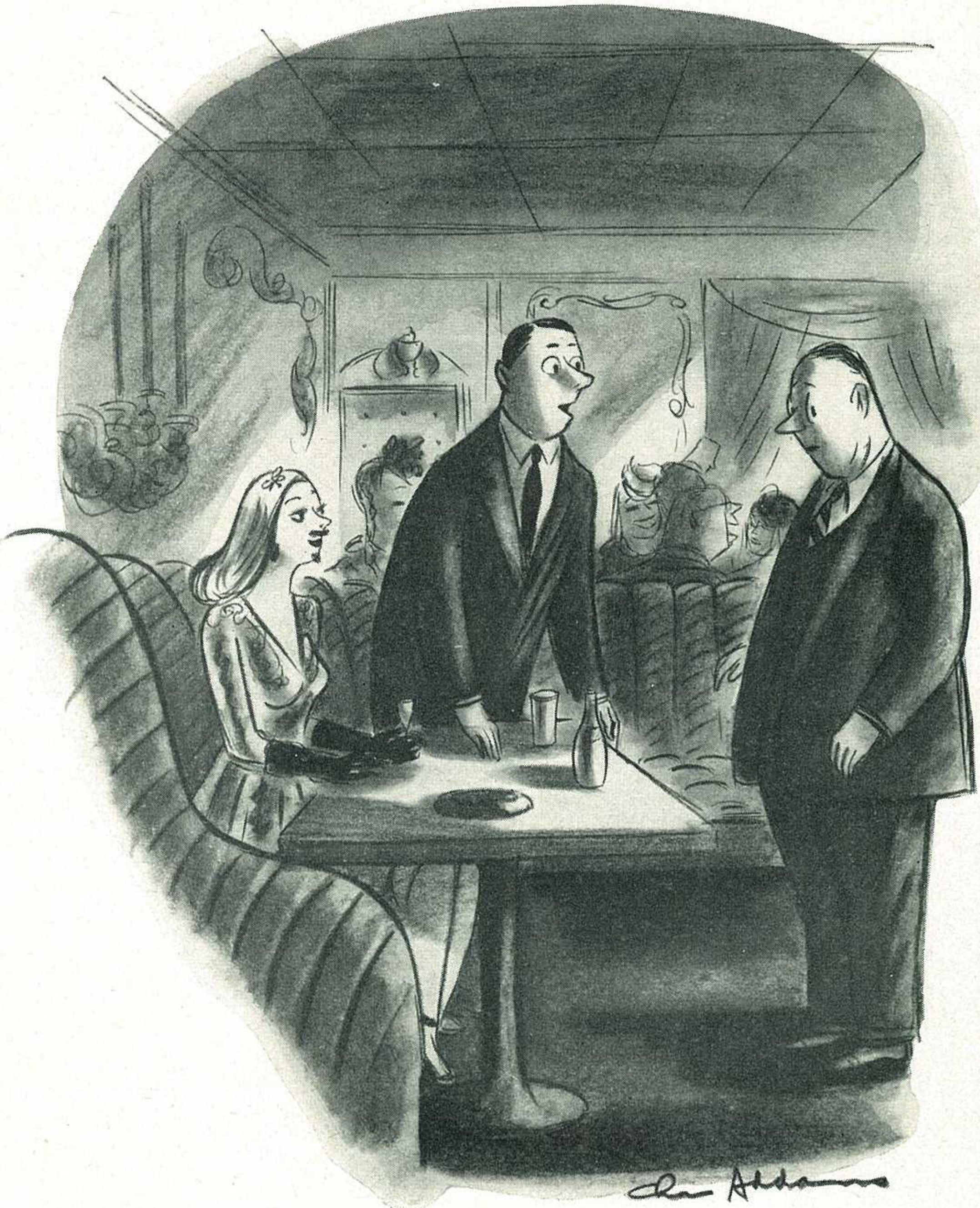
Chas Addams


Chas Addams

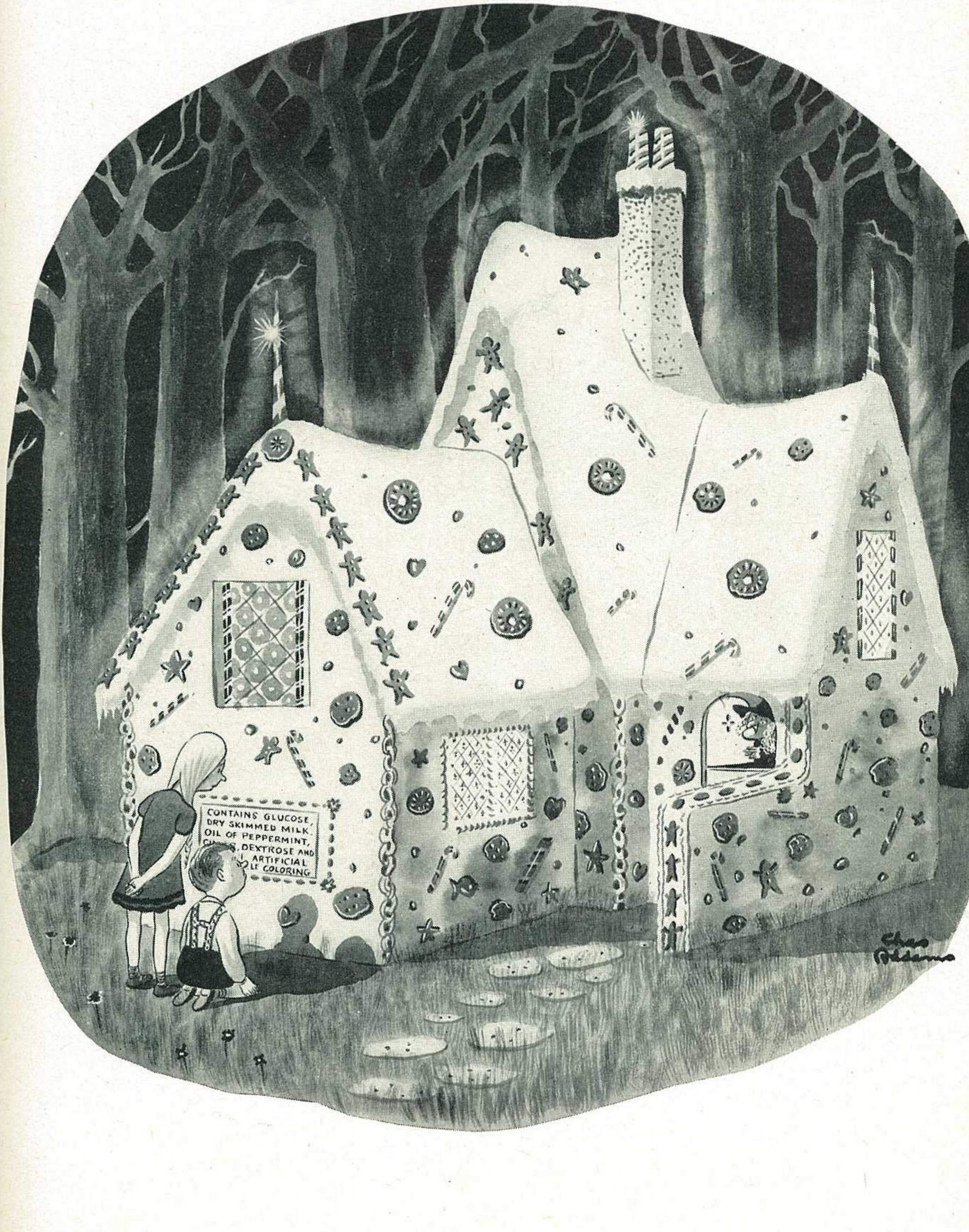
Suicide Pact

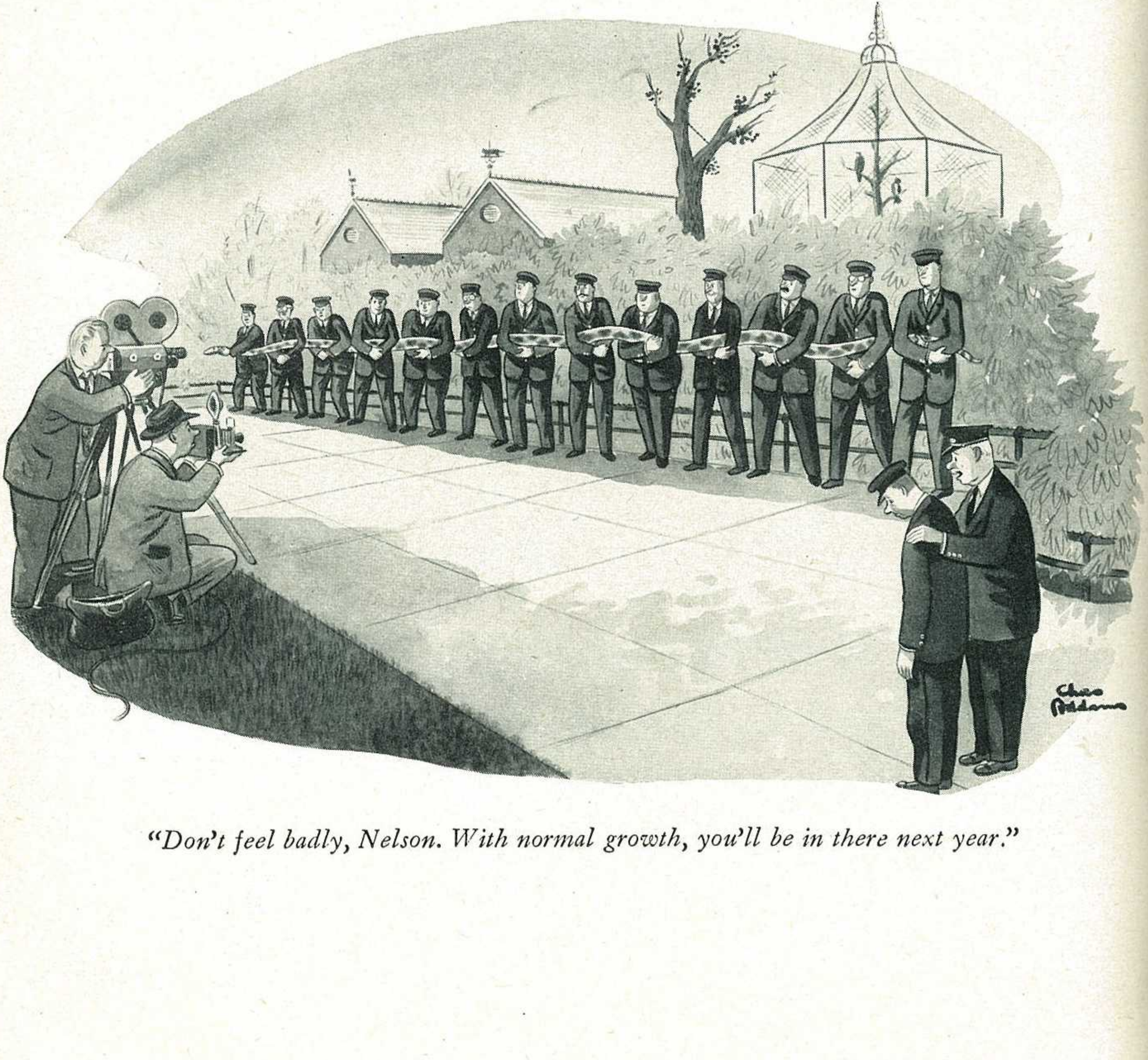


Chas Addams

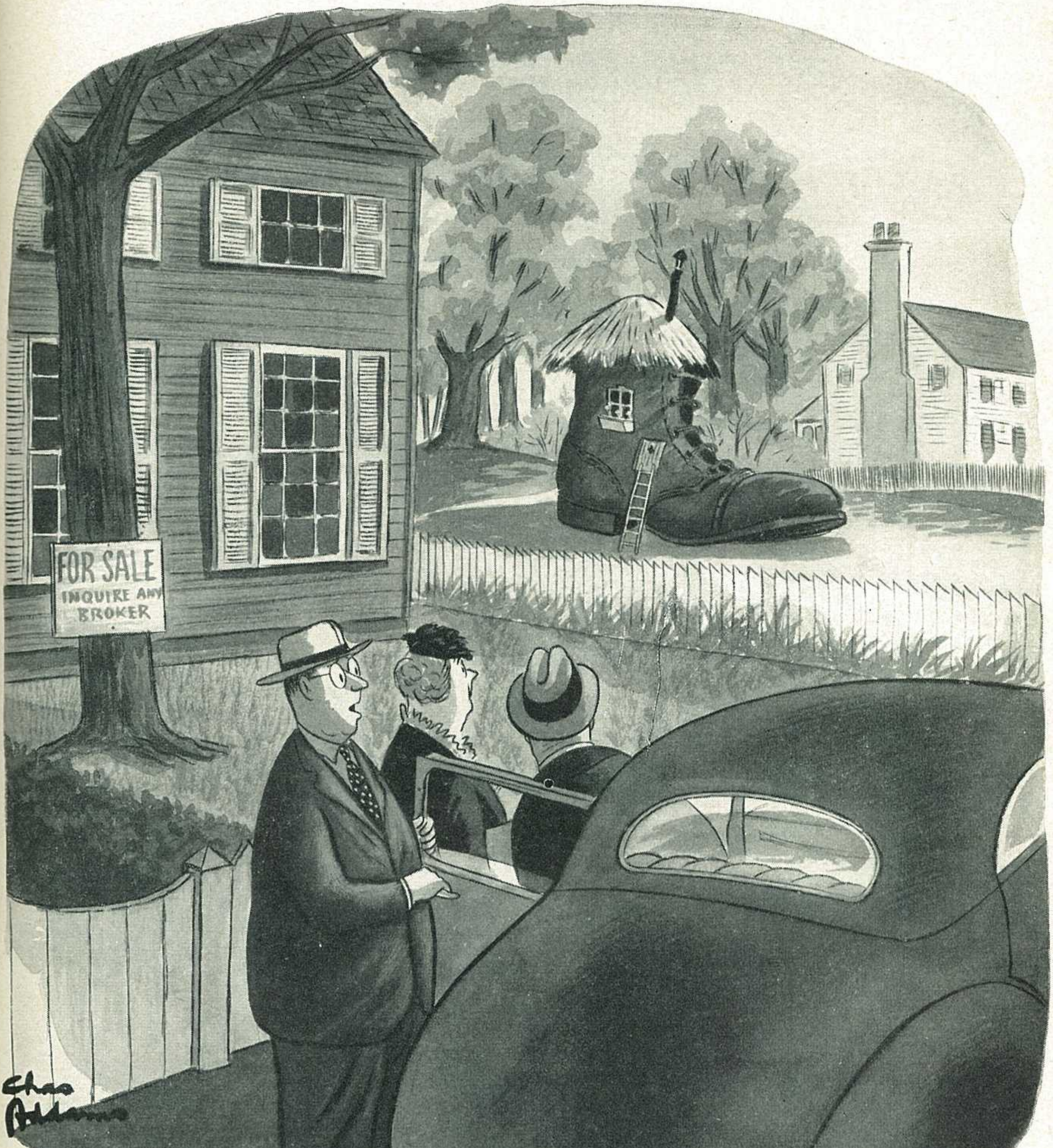


"Miss Osborne poses for subway posters."

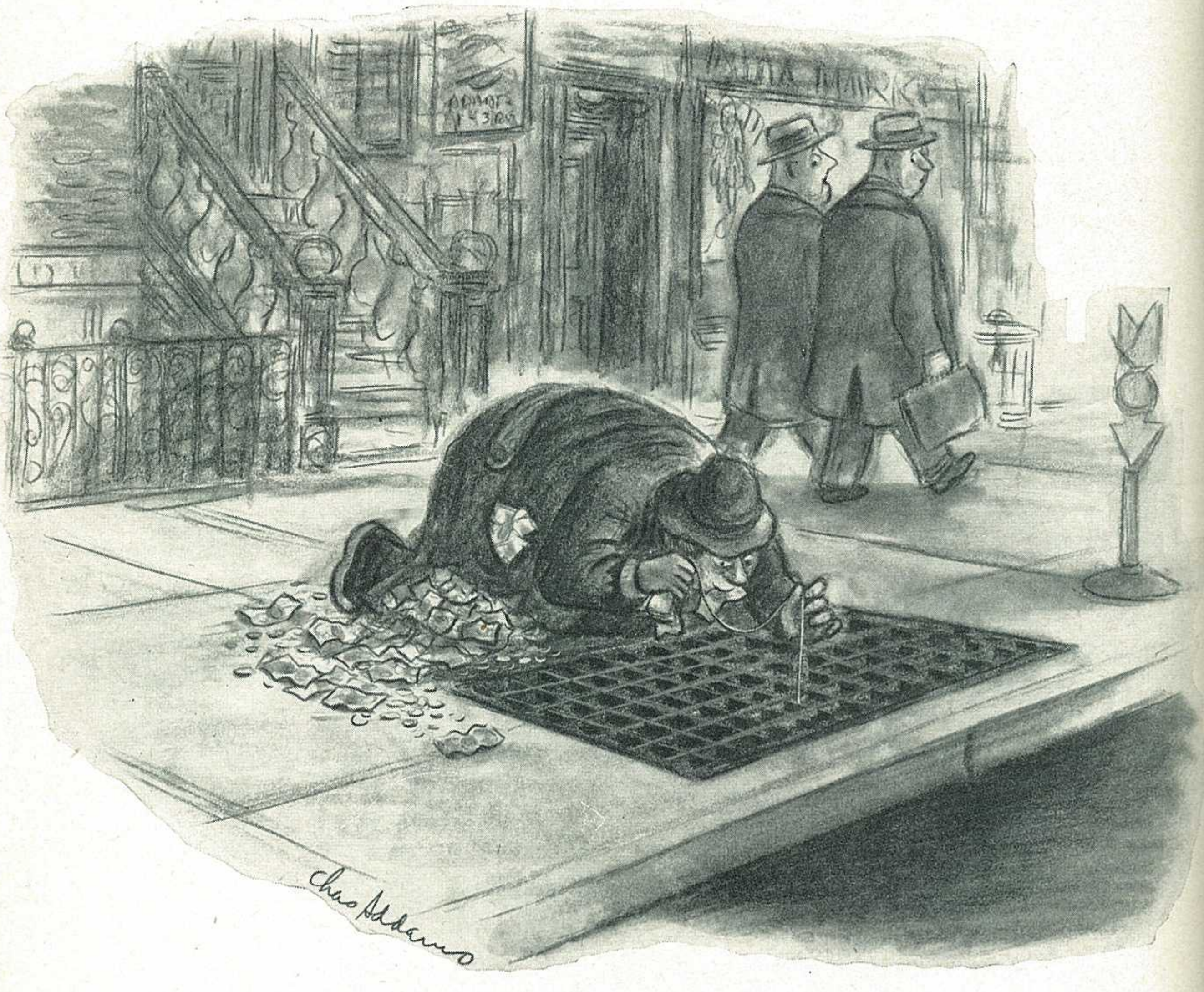

CONTAINS GLUCOSE,
DRY SKIMMED MILK,
OIL OF PEPPERMINT,
DEXTROSE AND
ARTIFICIAL
COLORING
Chas Addams


Chas Addams

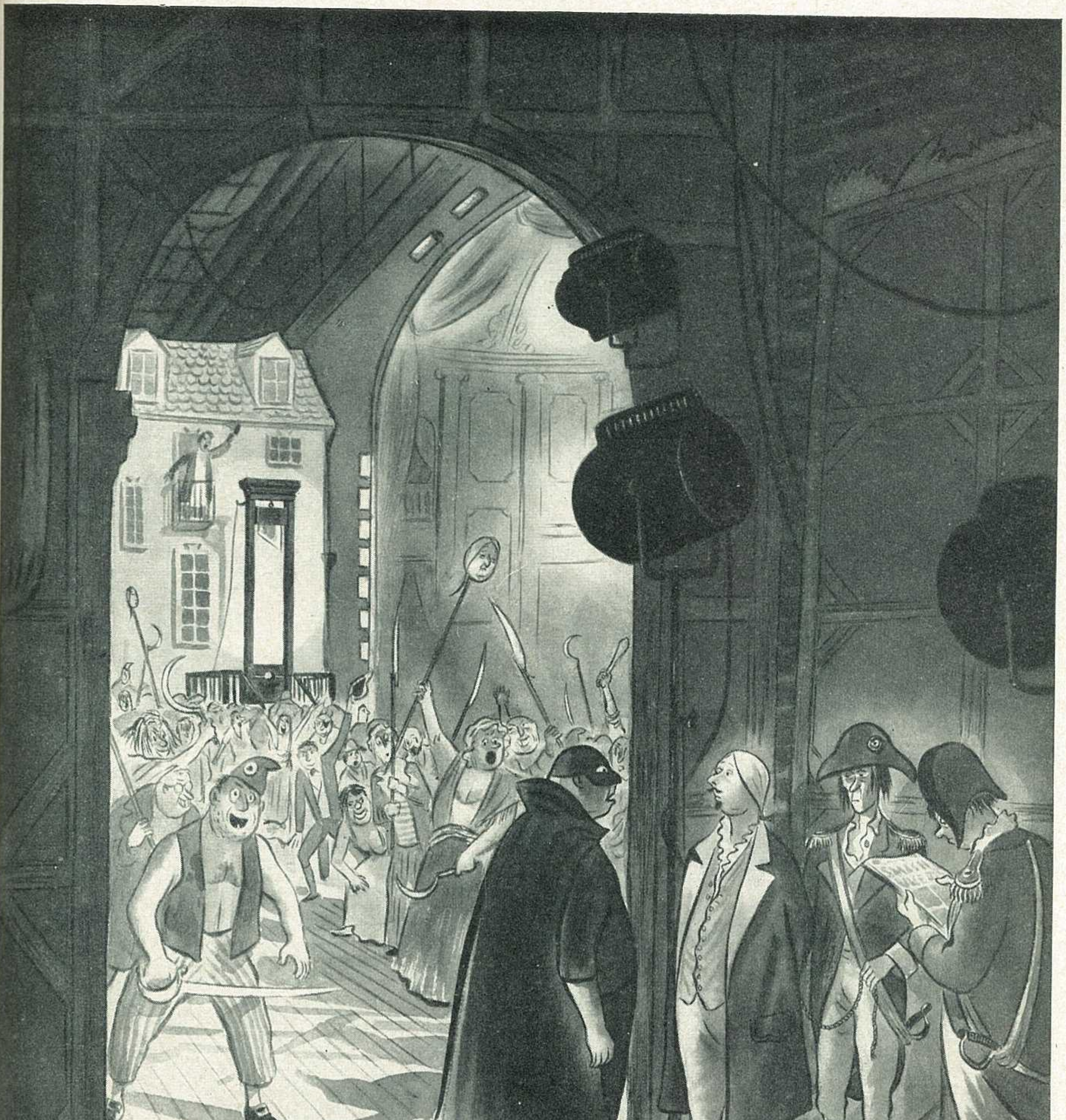
"Don't feel badly, Nelson. With normal growth, you'll be in there next year."


FOR SALE
INQUIRE ANY BROKER
Chas Addams

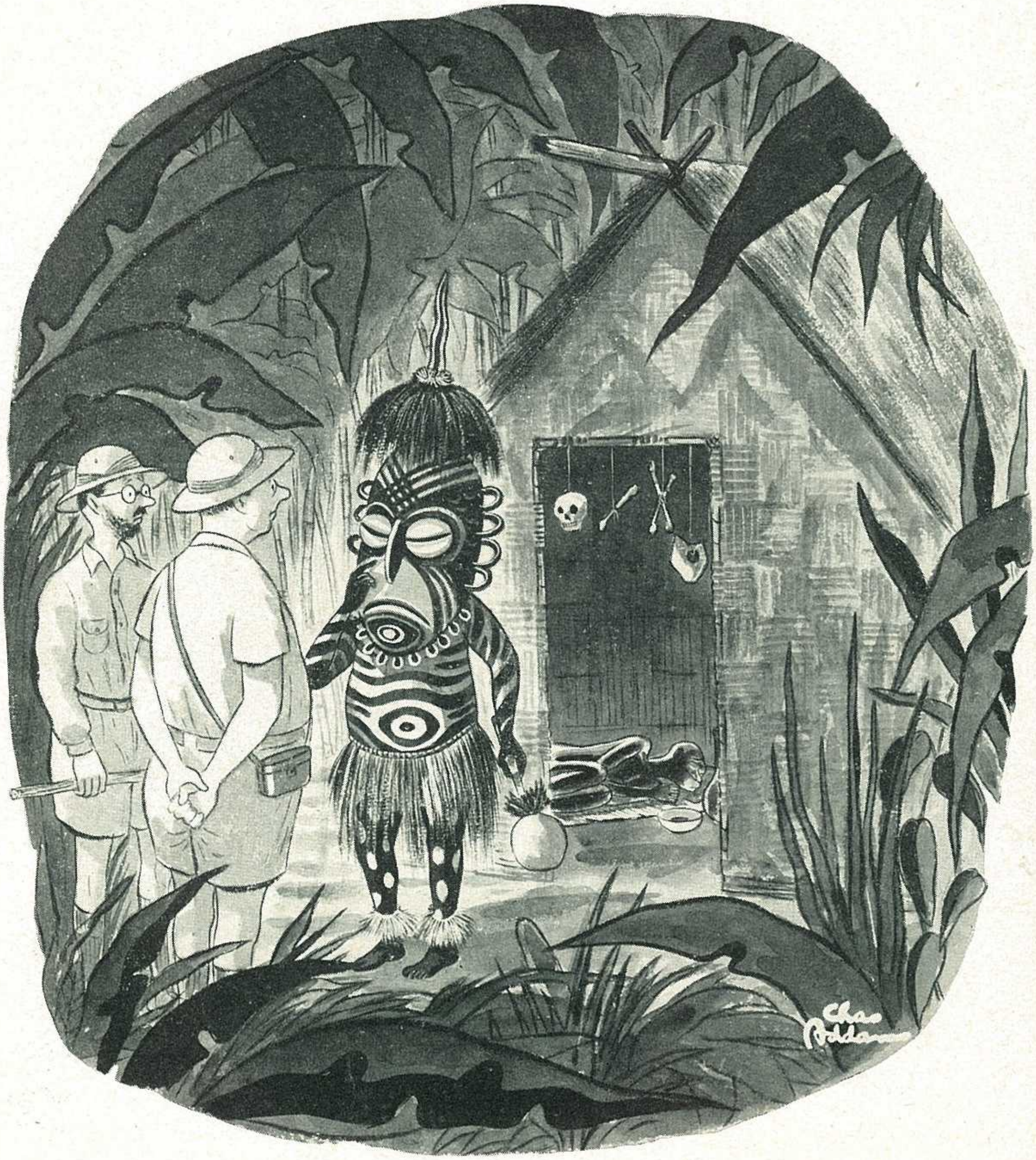
"*I hope you don't object to children.*"


Chas Addams

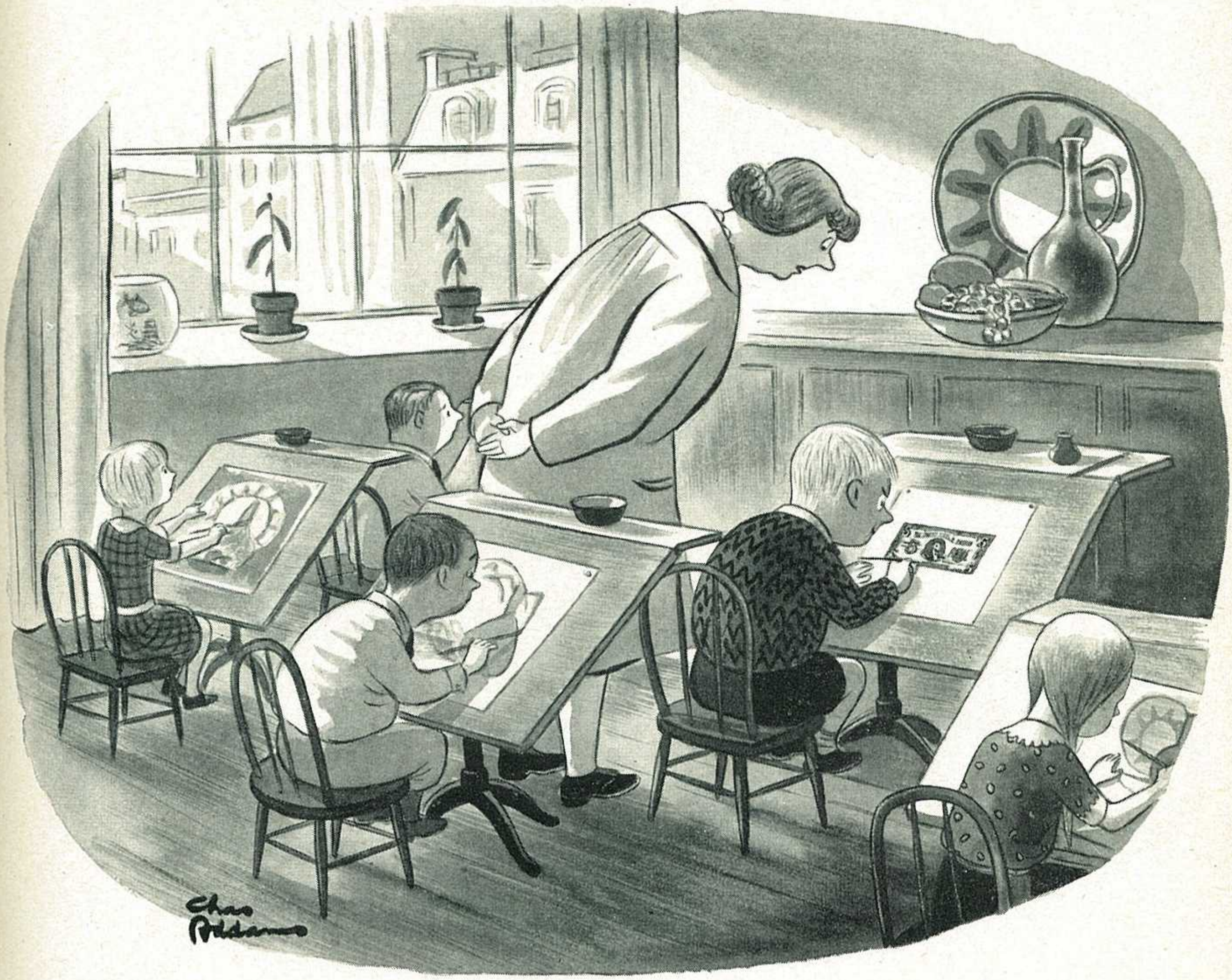
"Everybody's certainly cleaning up these days."

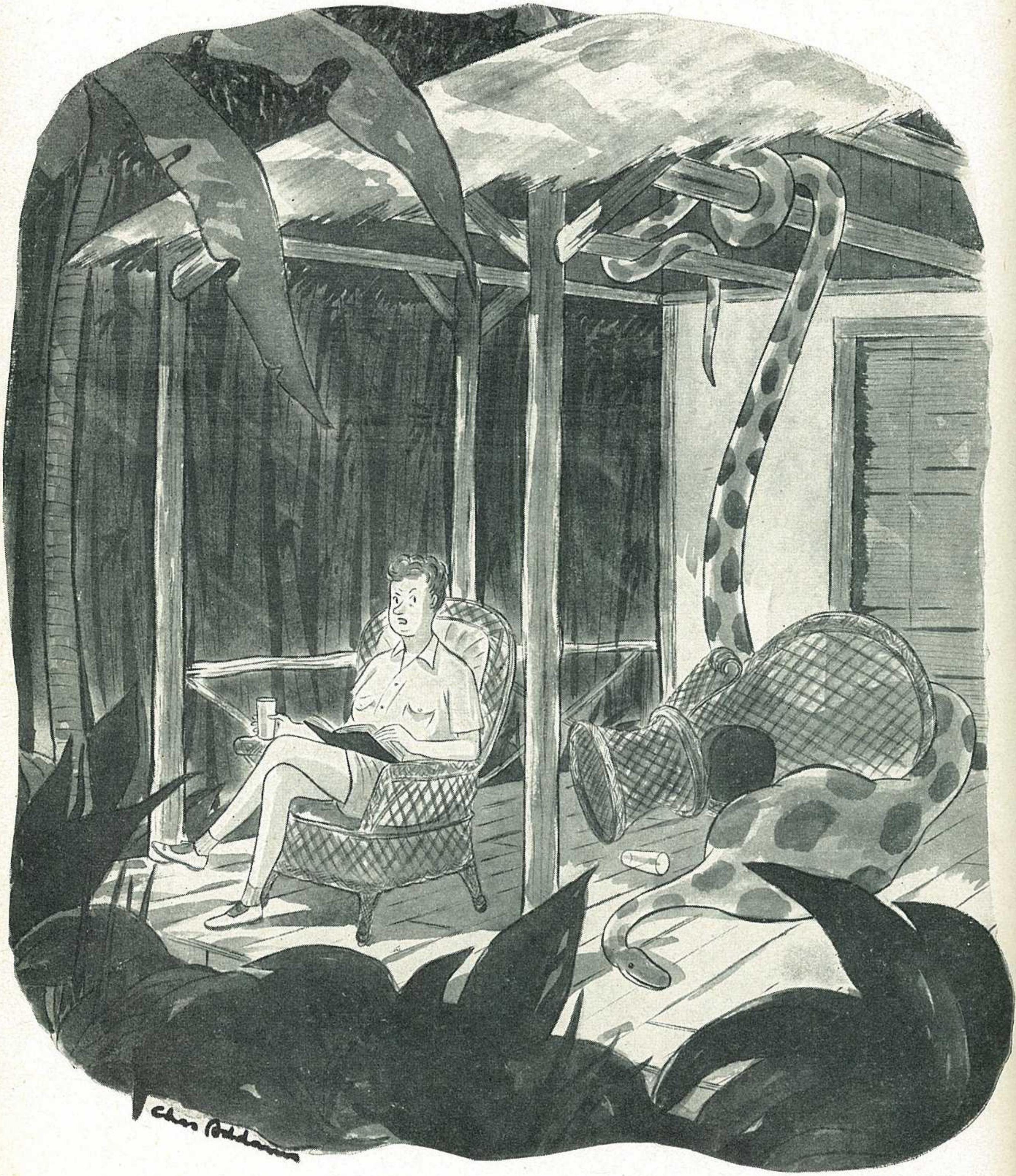

Chas Addams

"*Excuse me, Walter, that's my cue.*"

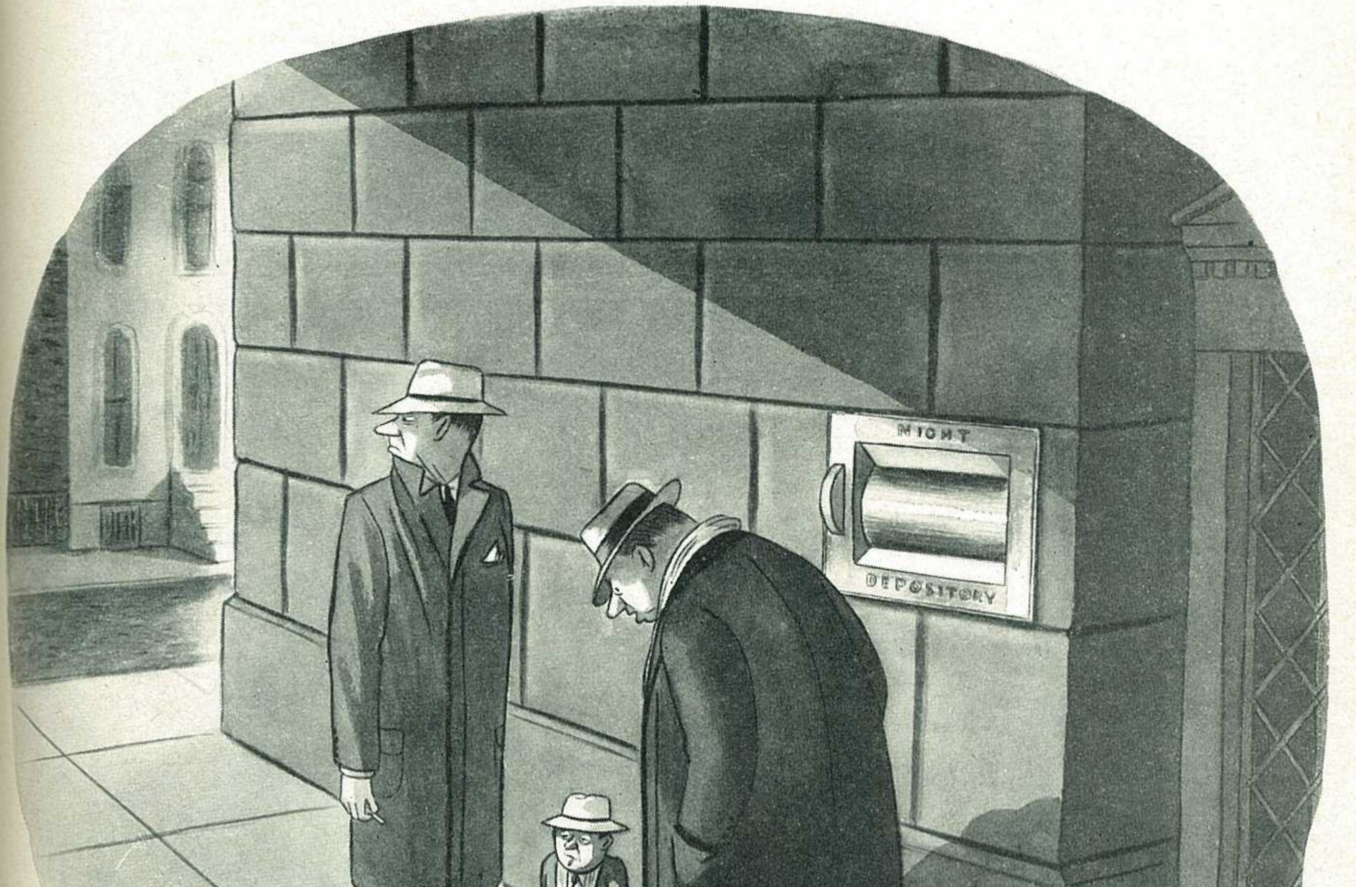

Chas Addams

"This is just a front, you understand. All I do, really, is slip sulfanilamide tablets into his drinking water."

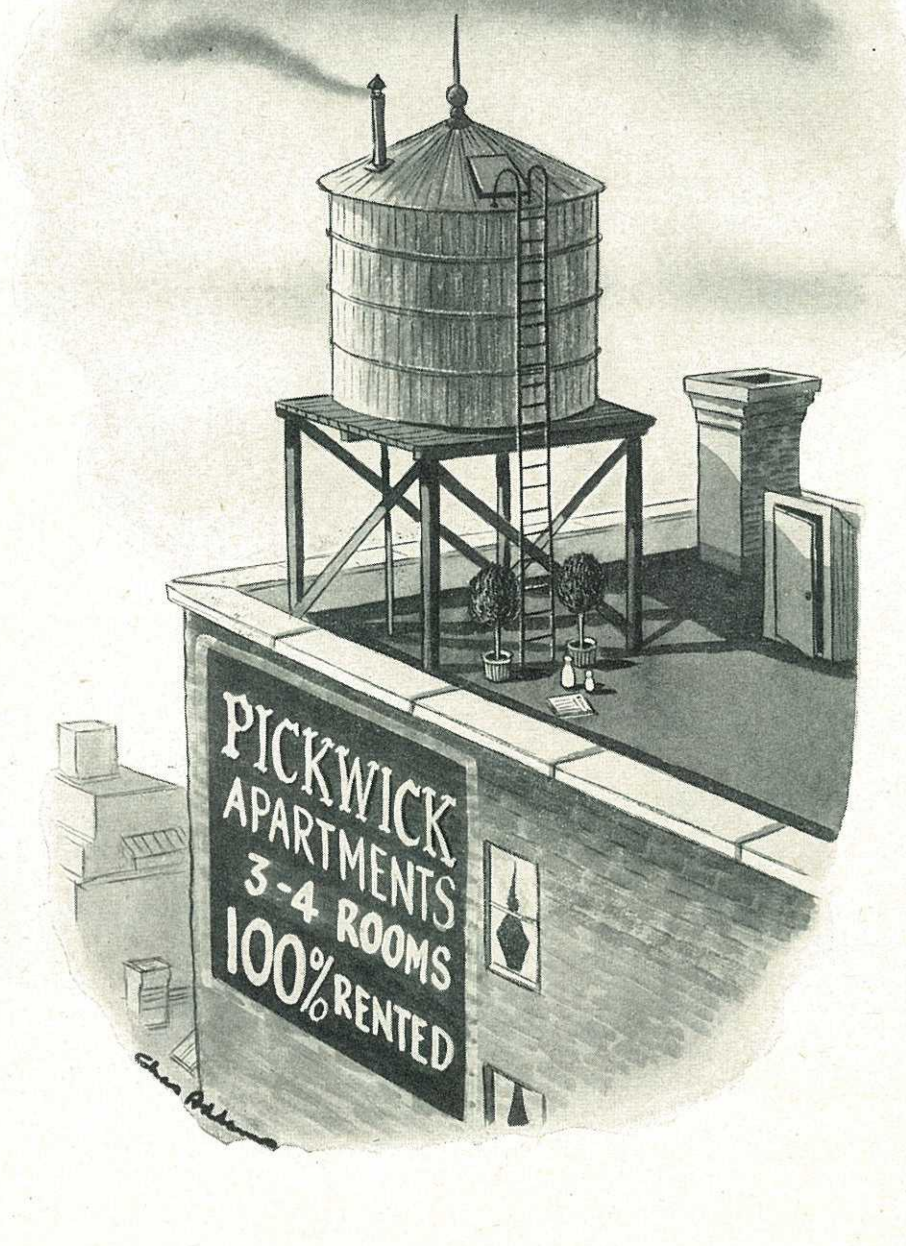

Chas Addams

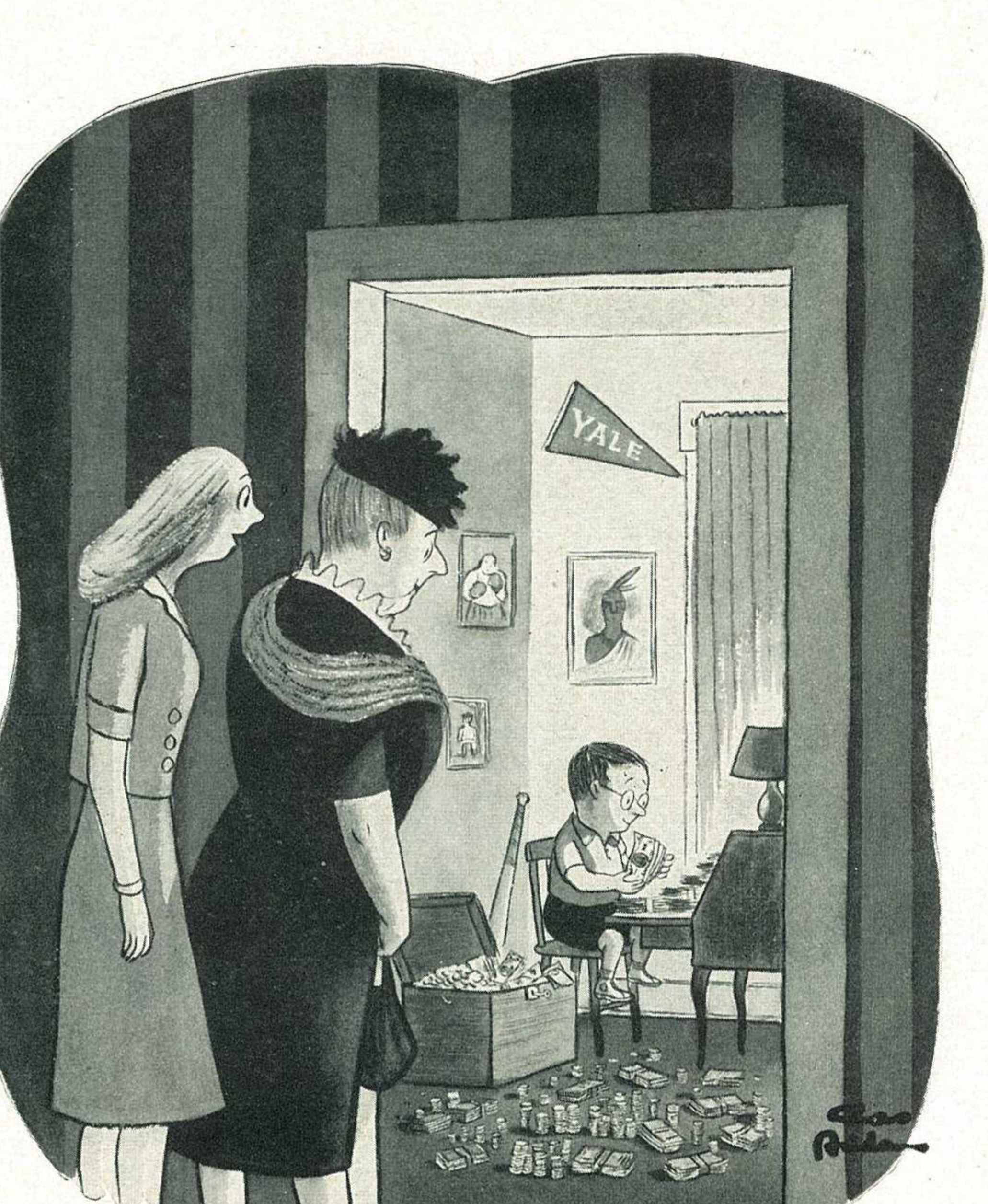

Chas Addams

"Oh, speak up, George! Stop mumbling!"

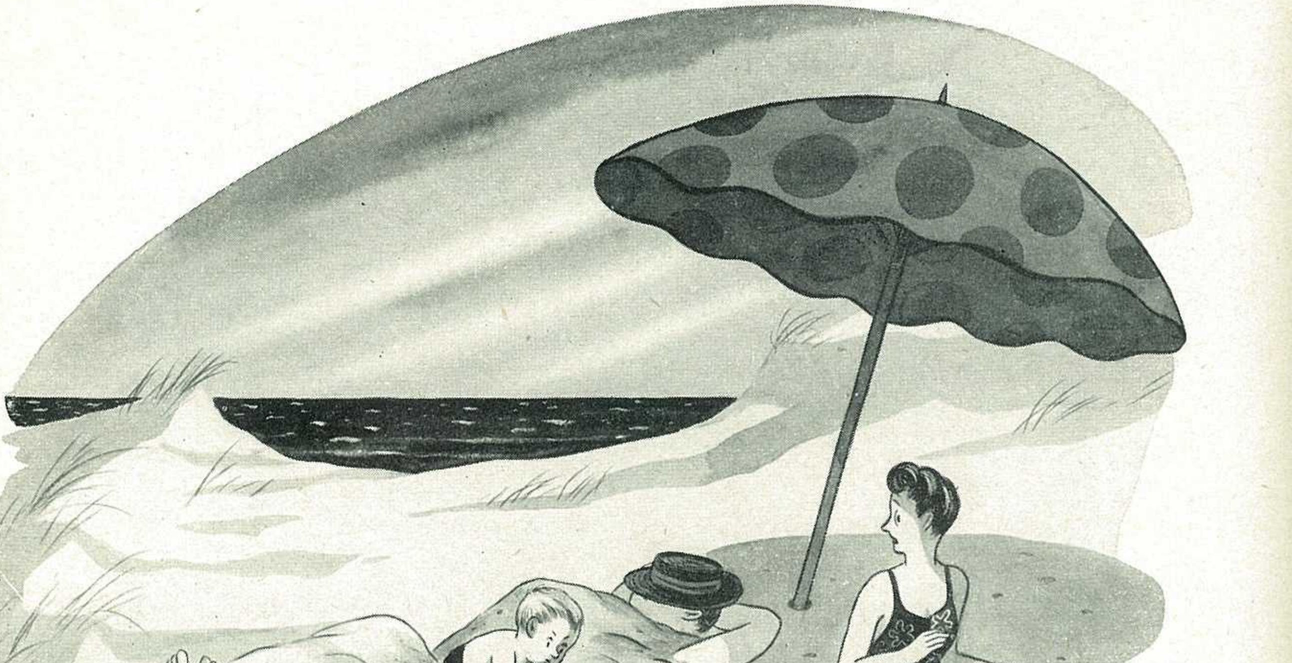

NIGHT
DEPOSITORY
Chas Addams

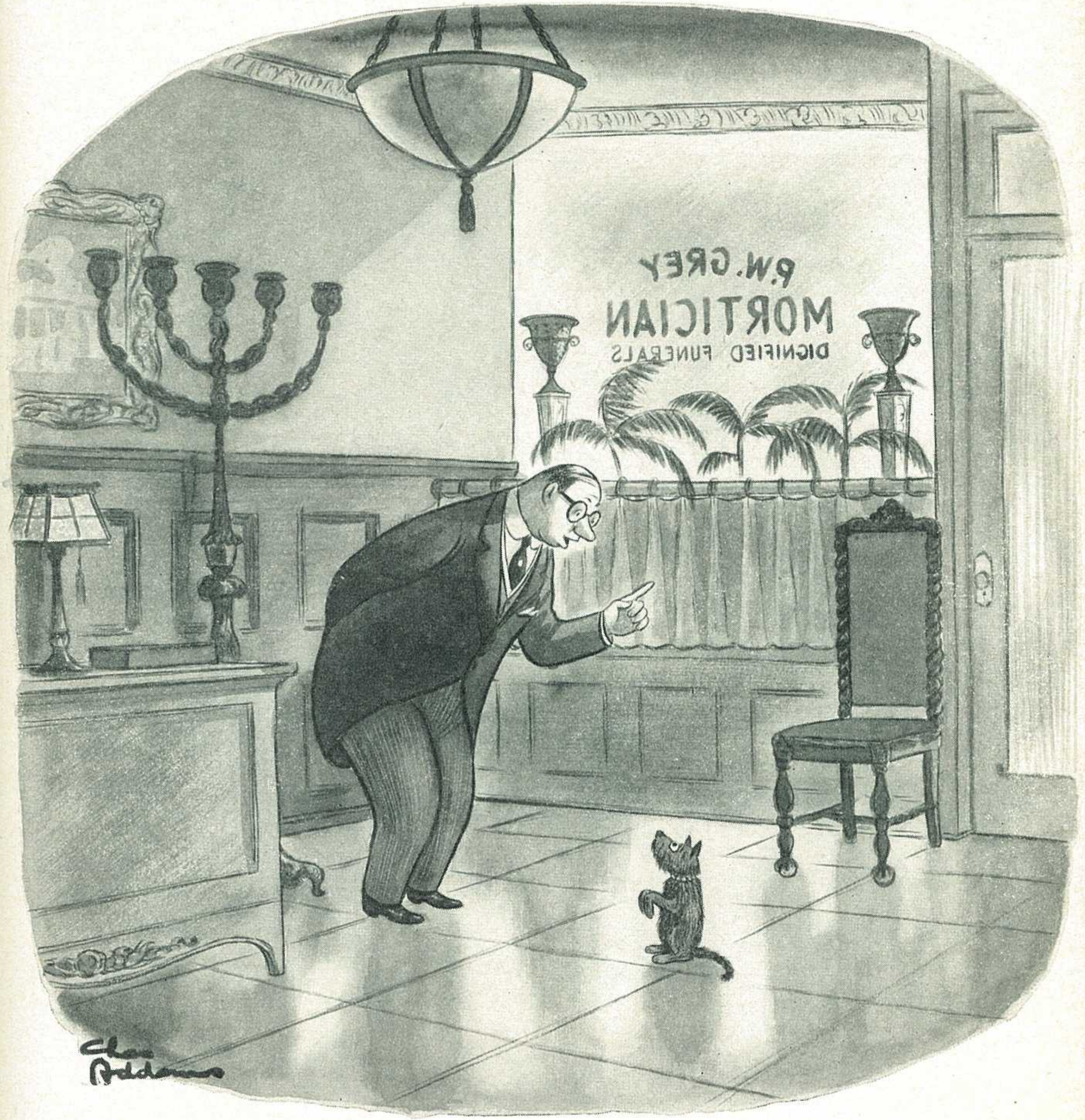
"O.K. now. You got it straight what you're supposed to do?"


PICKWICK
APARTMENTS
3-4 ROOMS
100% RENTED
Chas Addams

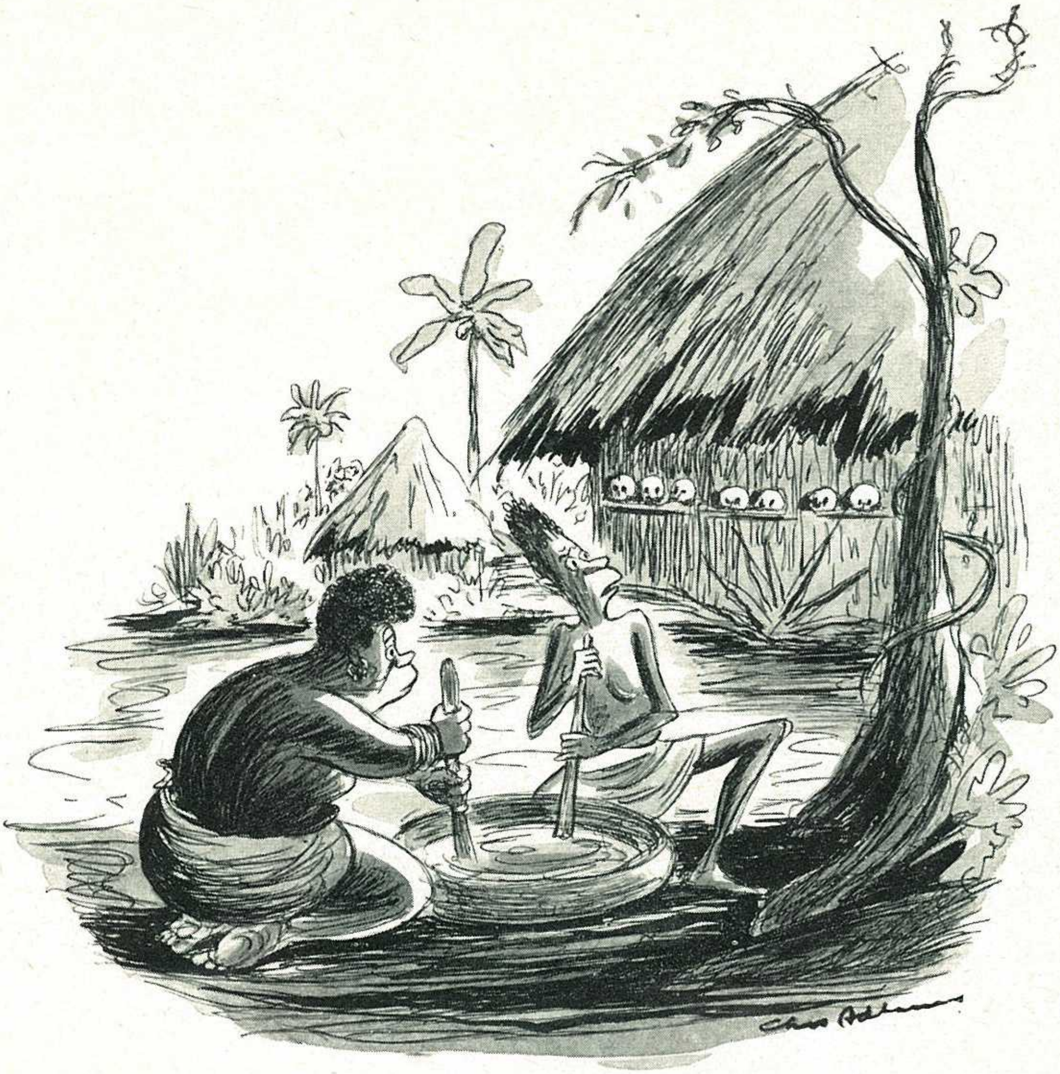

YALE
Chas Addams

"As a matter of fact, it's a rather amusing story. Do you remember last spring when Herbert was police commissioner during Boys' Week? . . ."

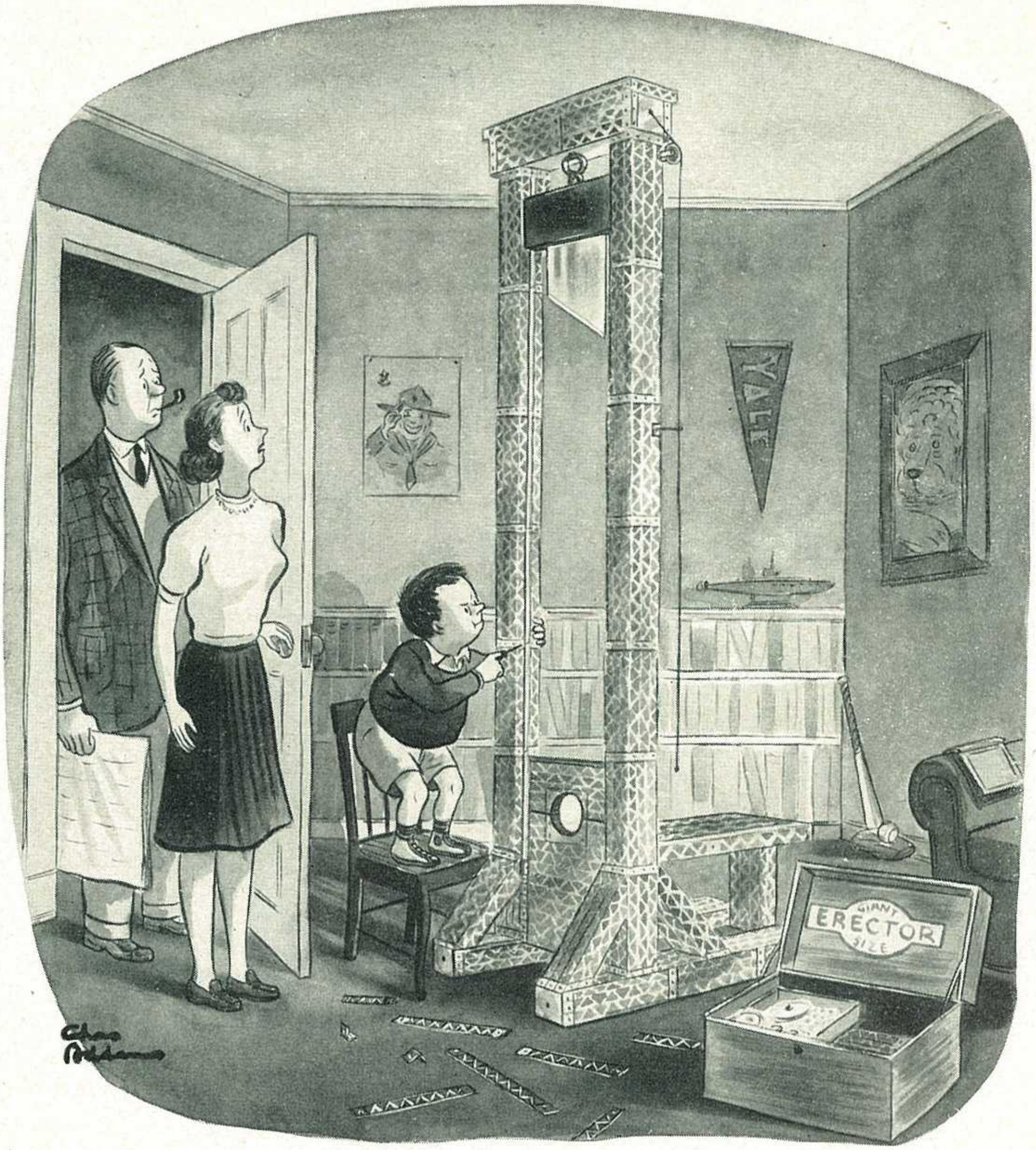

Chas Addams

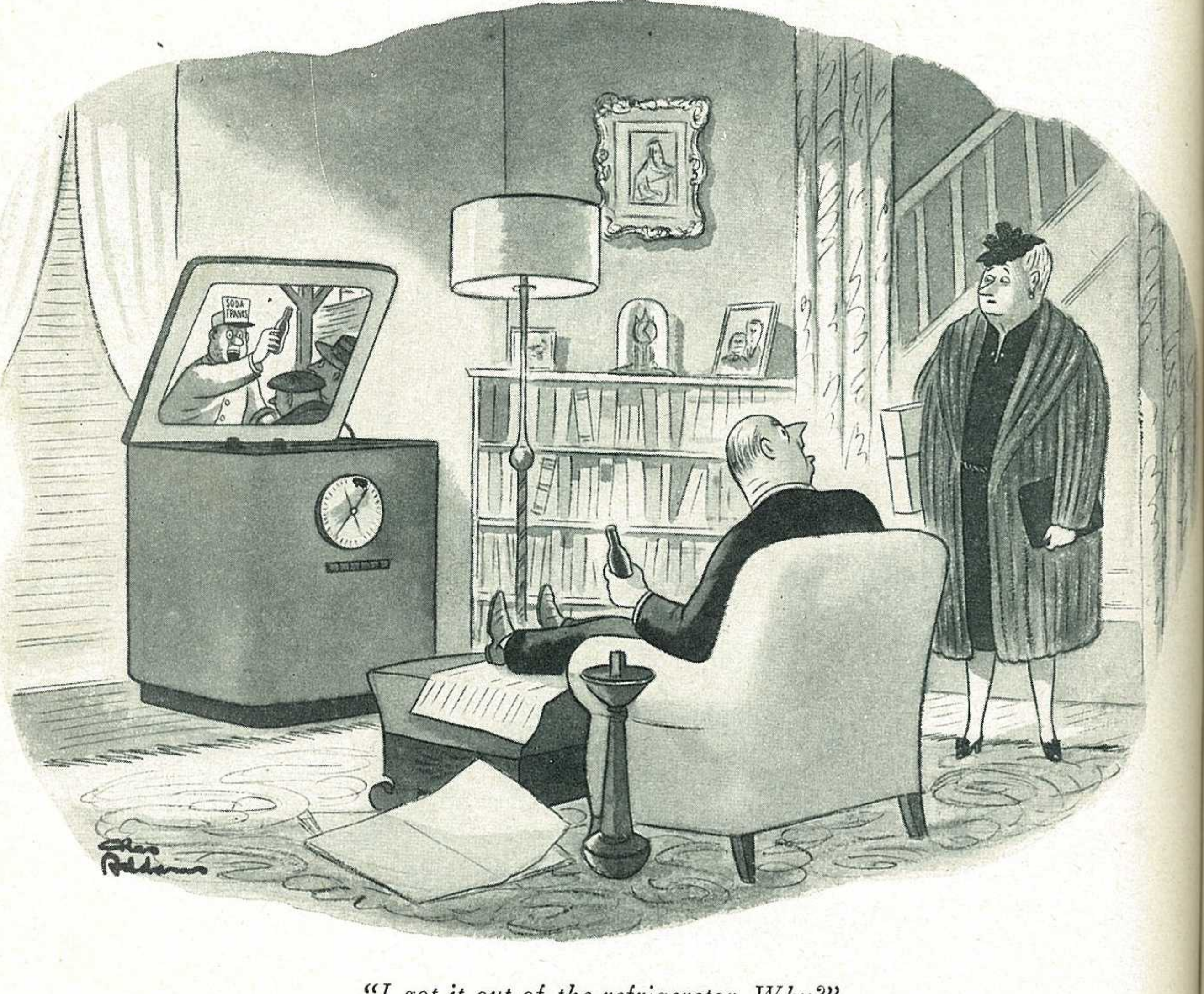

P.W. GREY
MORTICIAN
DIGNIFIED FUNERALS
Chas Addams

"Now play dead."

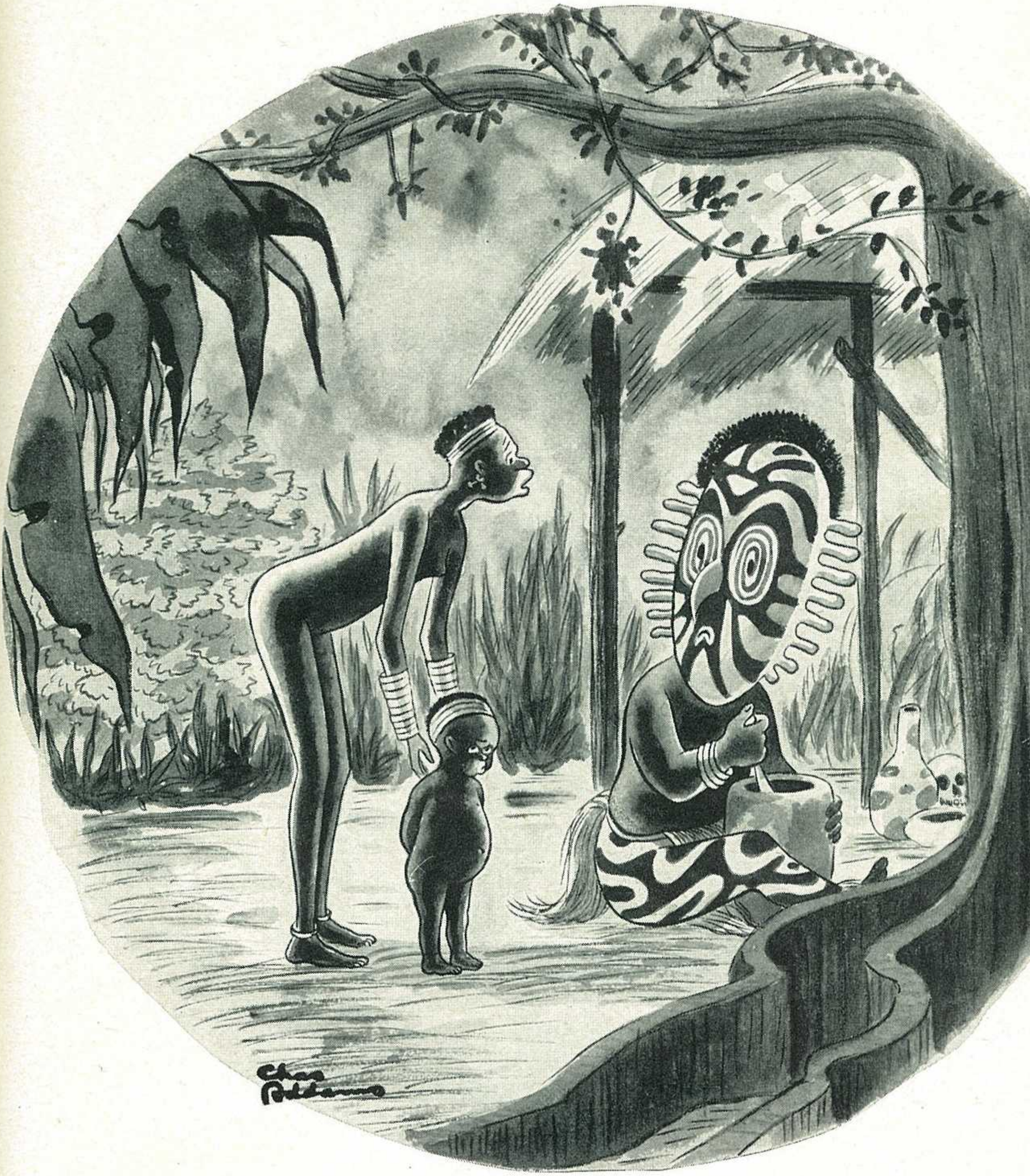

Chas Addams

"Do you smell someone burning?"

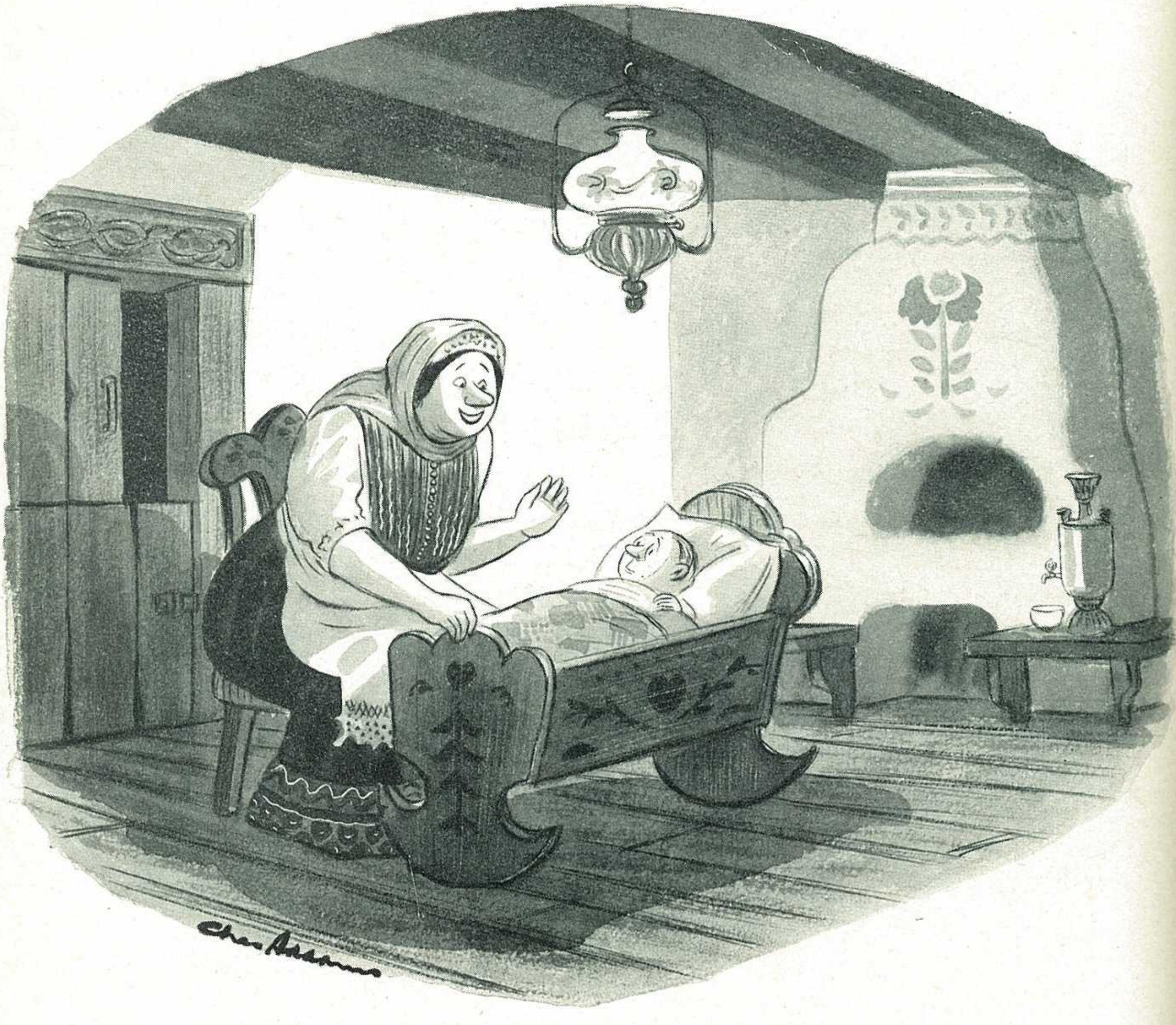

YALE
GIANT
ERECTOR
SIZE
Chas Addams


SODA
FRANKS
Chas Addams

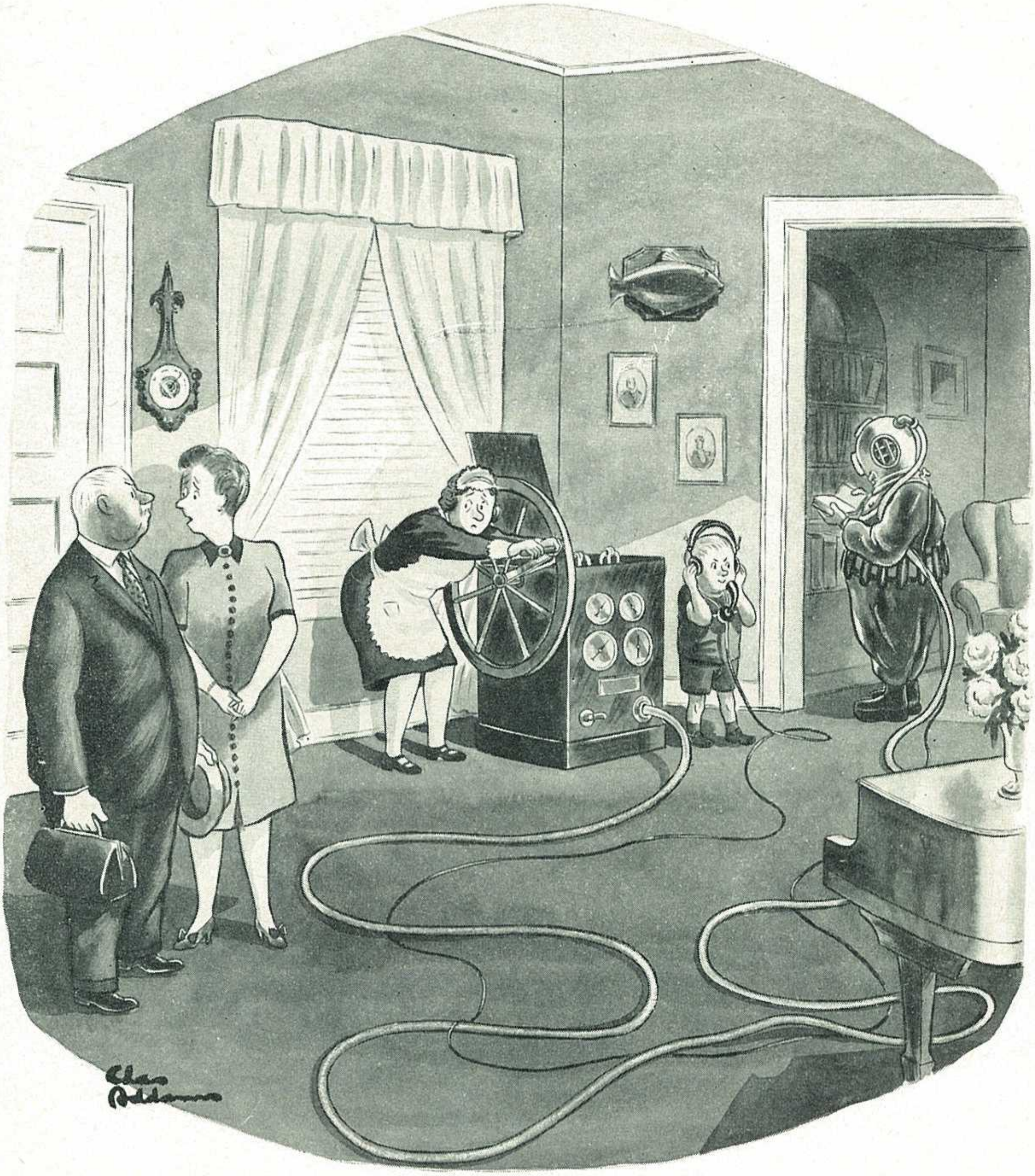
"I got it out of the refrigerator. Why?"


Chas Addams

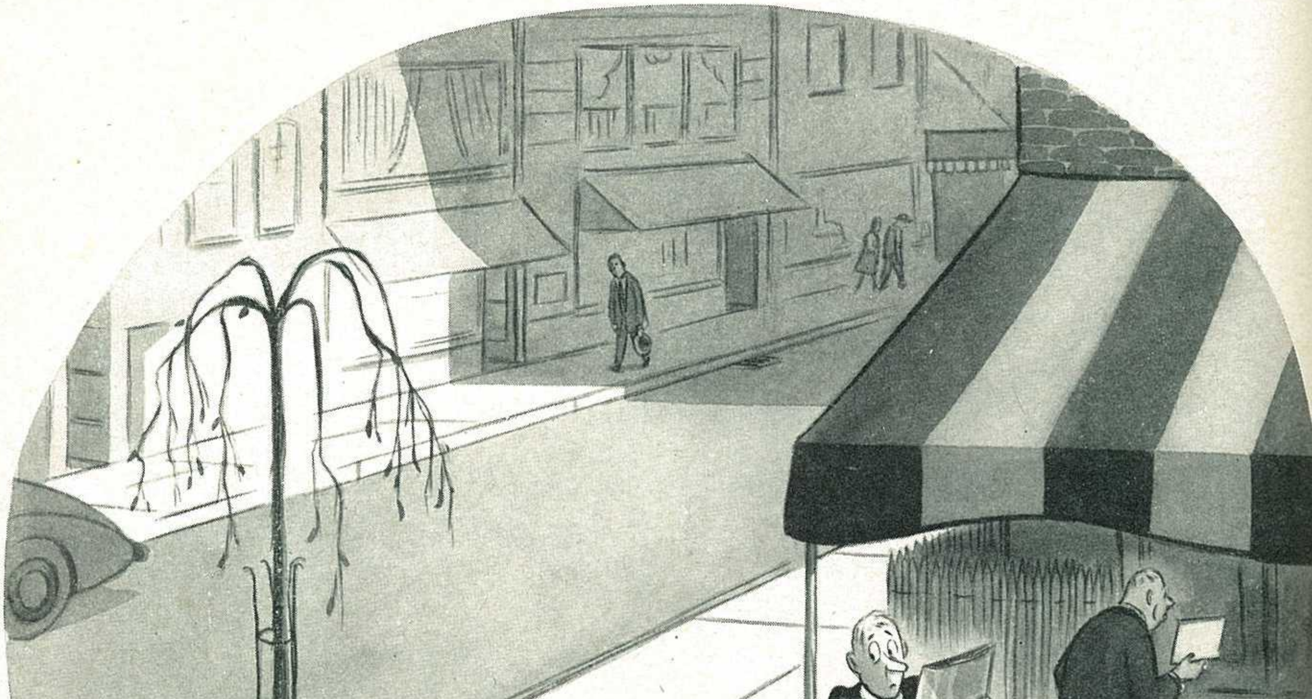
"I'm worried about him, Doctor. He won't eat anybody."

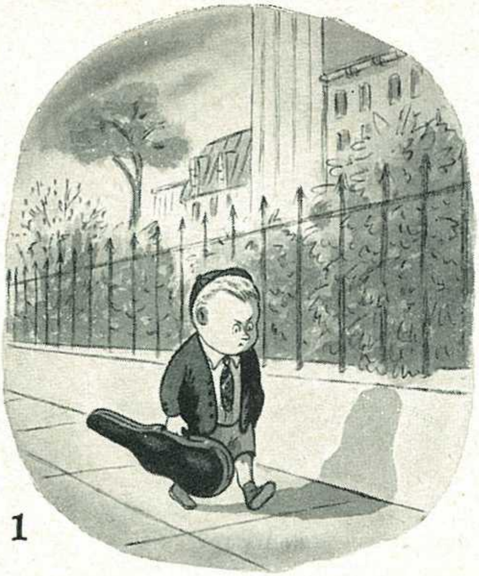


". . . and so the poor peasant's daughter liquidated the handsome young prince, set up a people's government, and lived happily ever after."


Chas Addams

"I'm at my wits' end, Doctor. We simply can't convince him that he isn't living underwater."


Chas Addams



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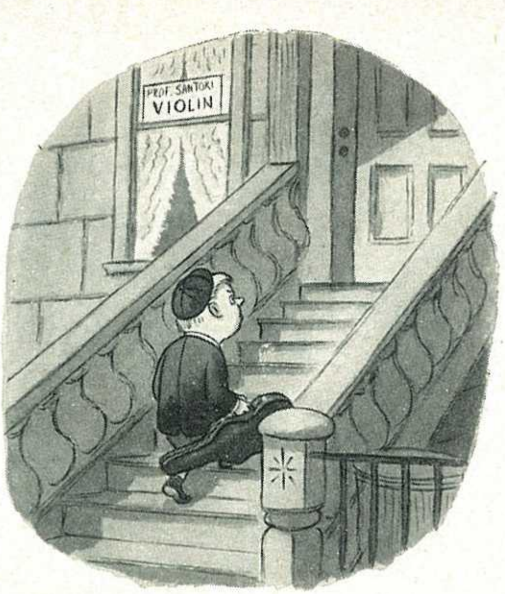
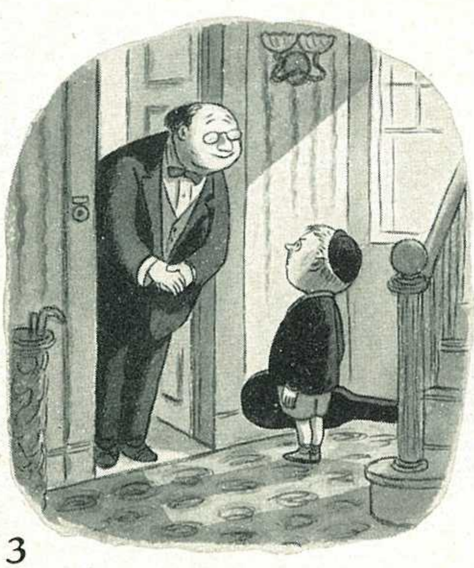

PROF. SANTORI
VIOLIN

2



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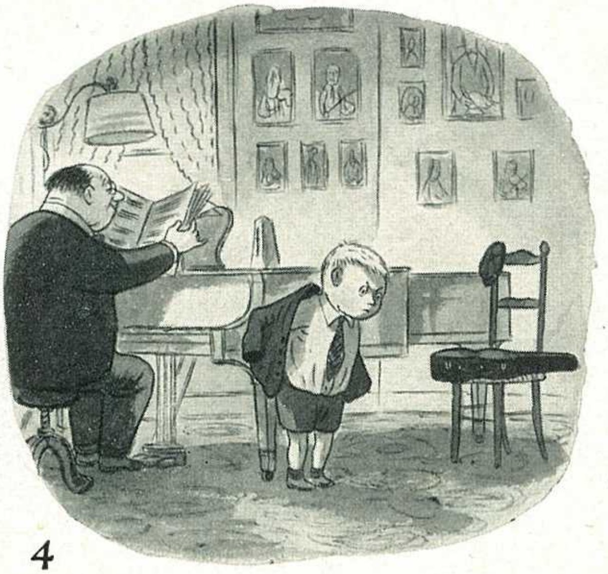

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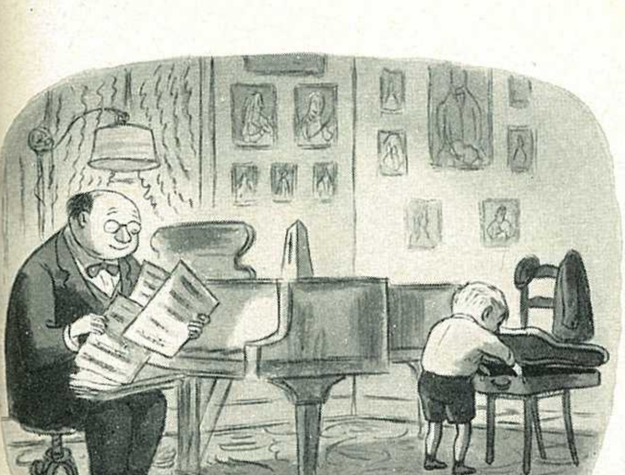

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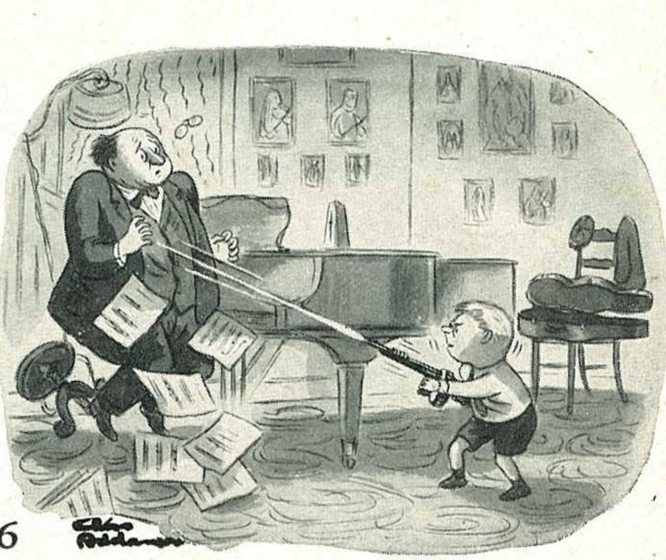
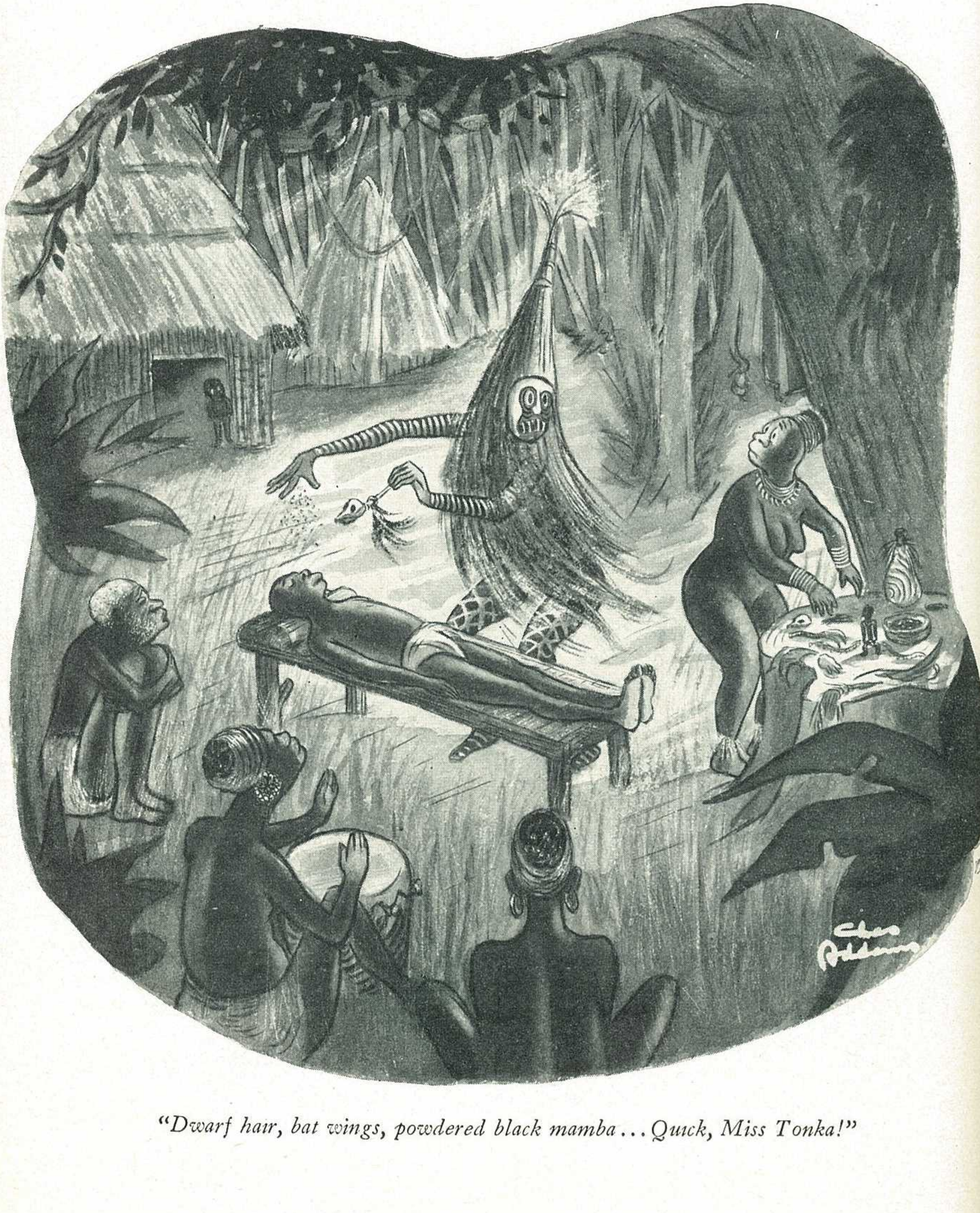
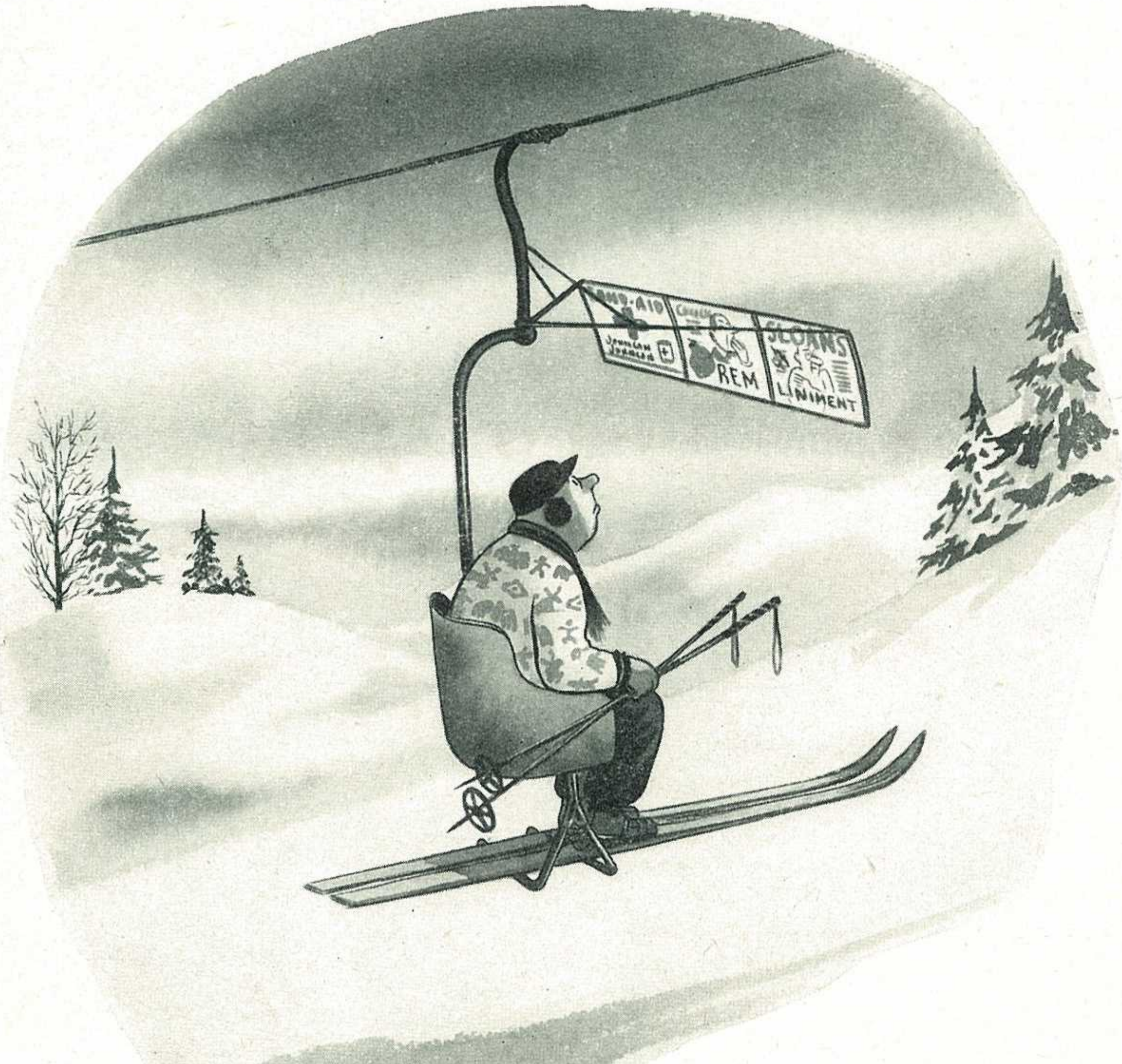
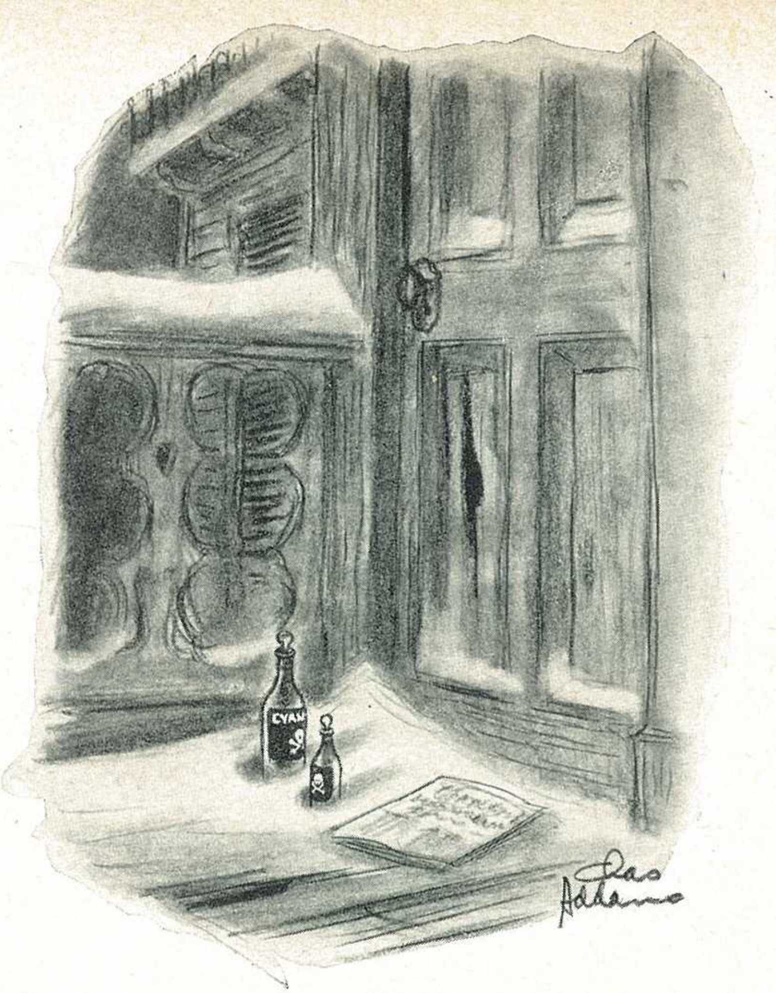

Chas Addams

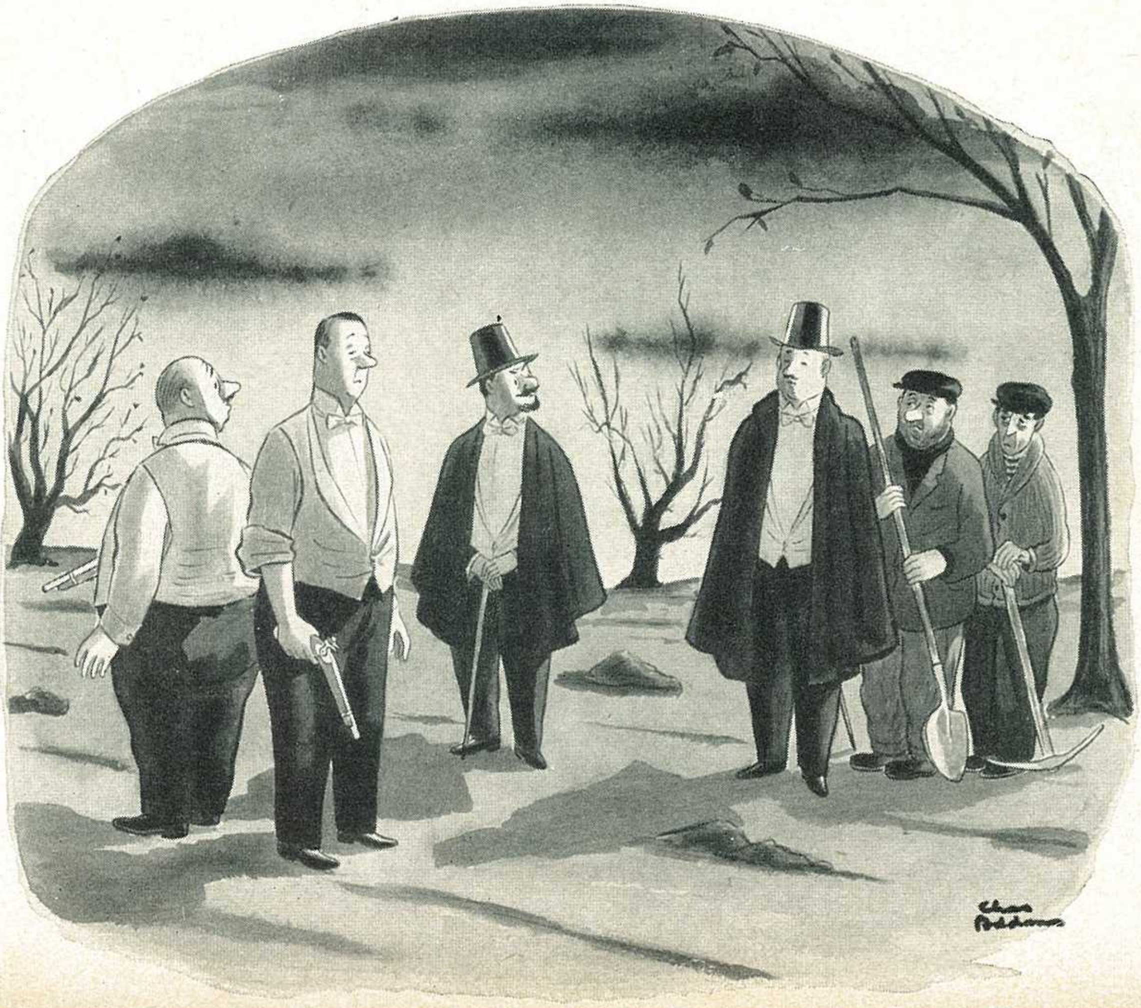
6

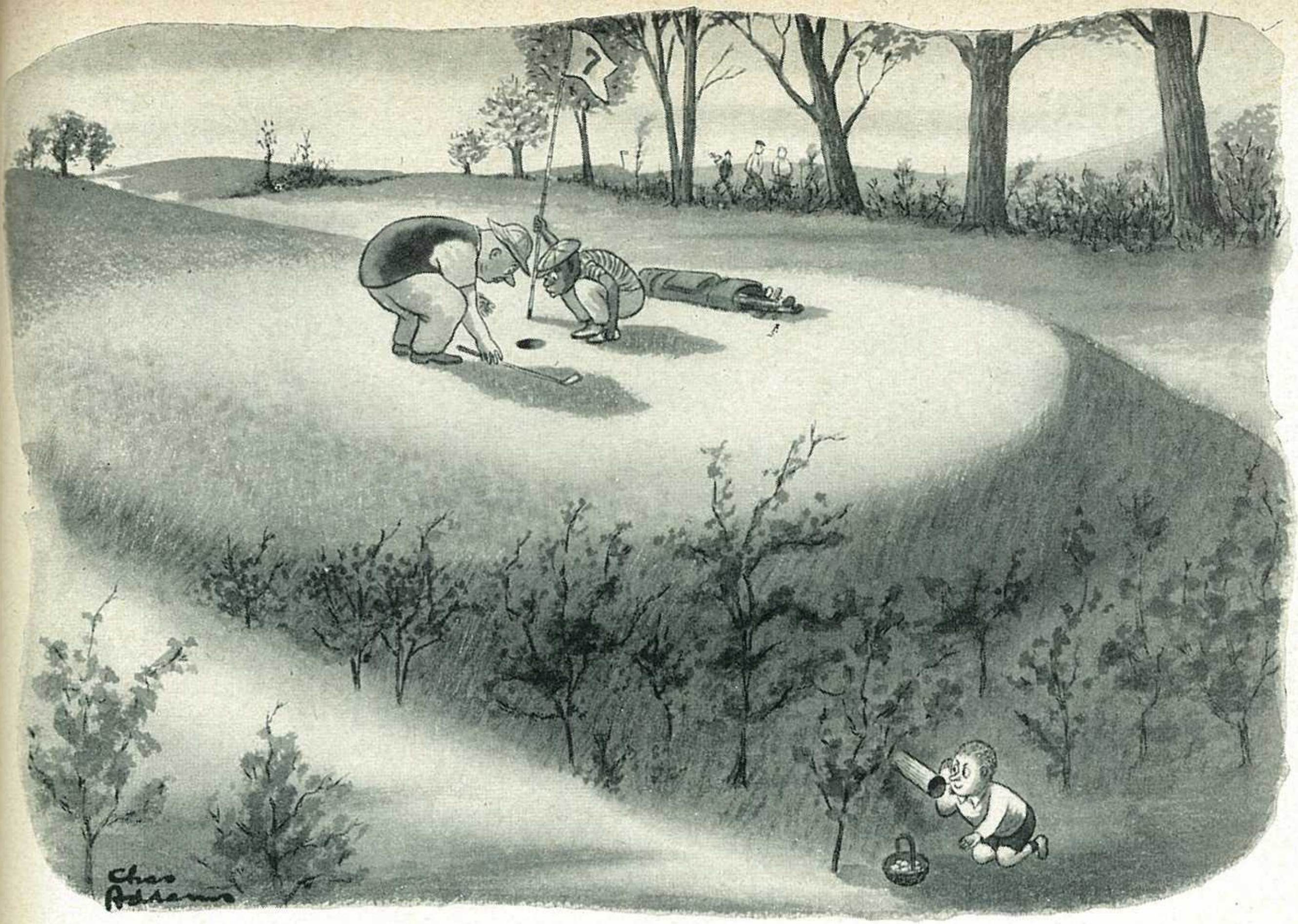

Chas Addams

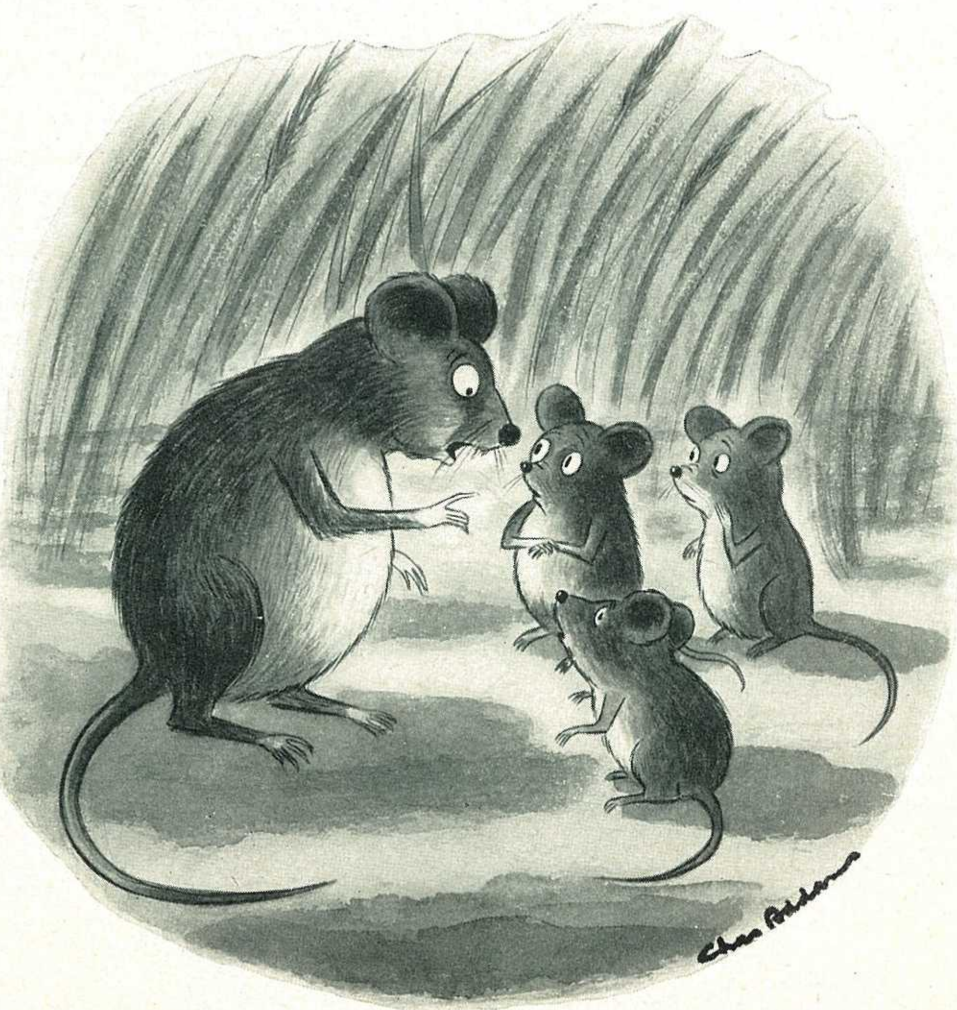
"Dwarf hair, bat wings, powdered black mamba . . . Quick, Miss Tonka!"


AND-AID
Johnson Johnson
Cough
REM
SLOANS
LINIMENT
Chas Addams

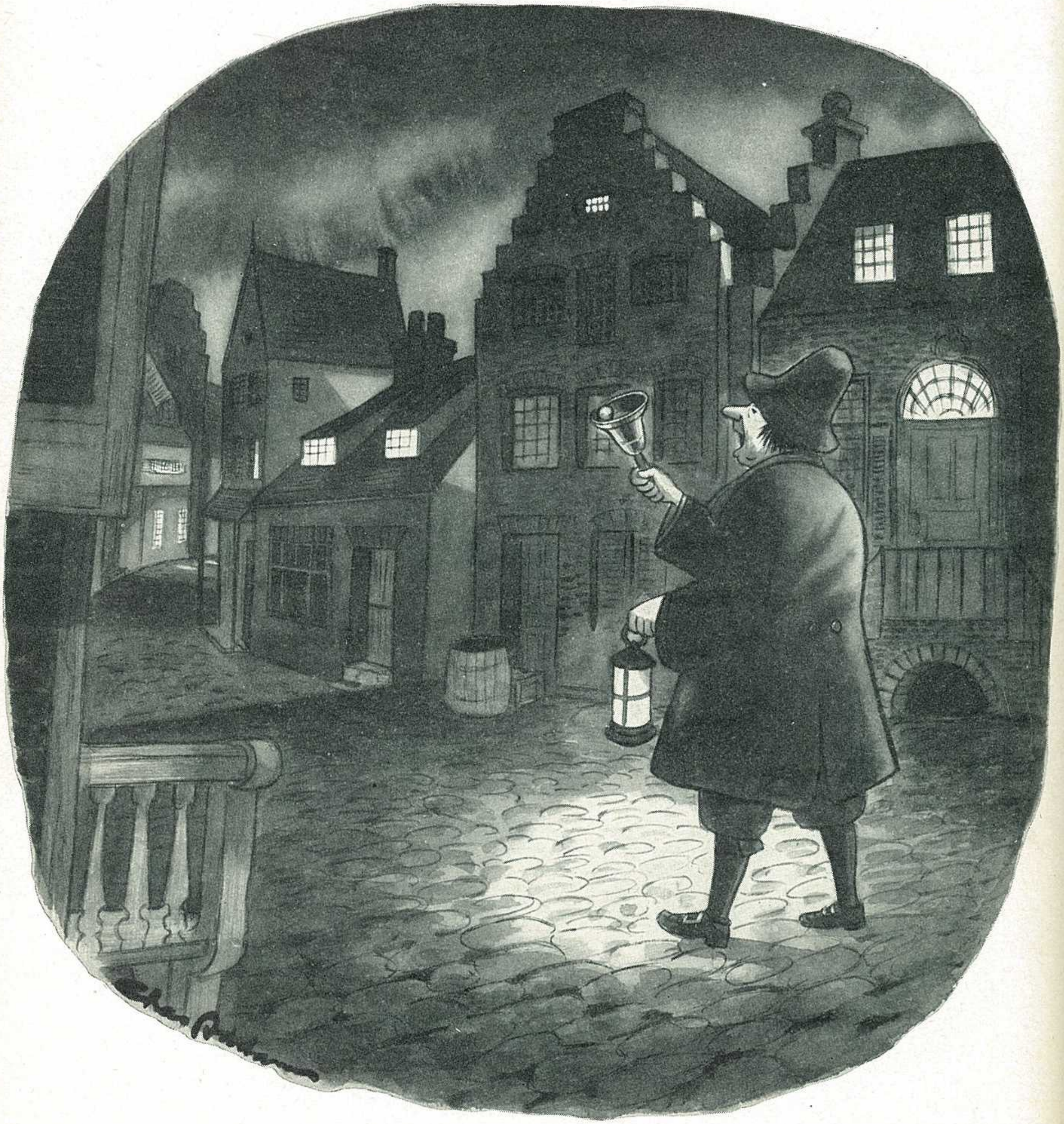

CYAN
Chas Addams


Chas Addams

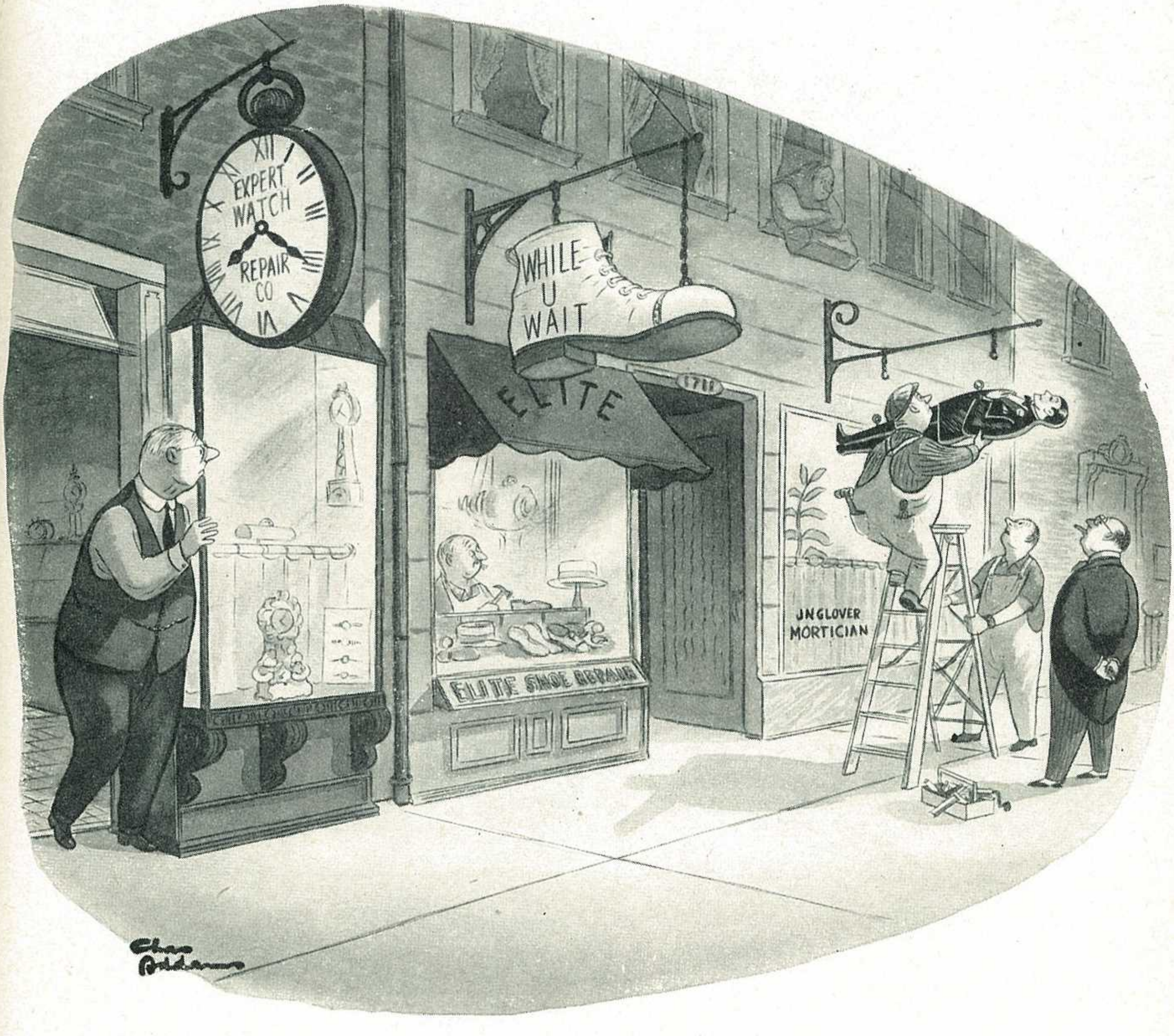

7
Chas Addams

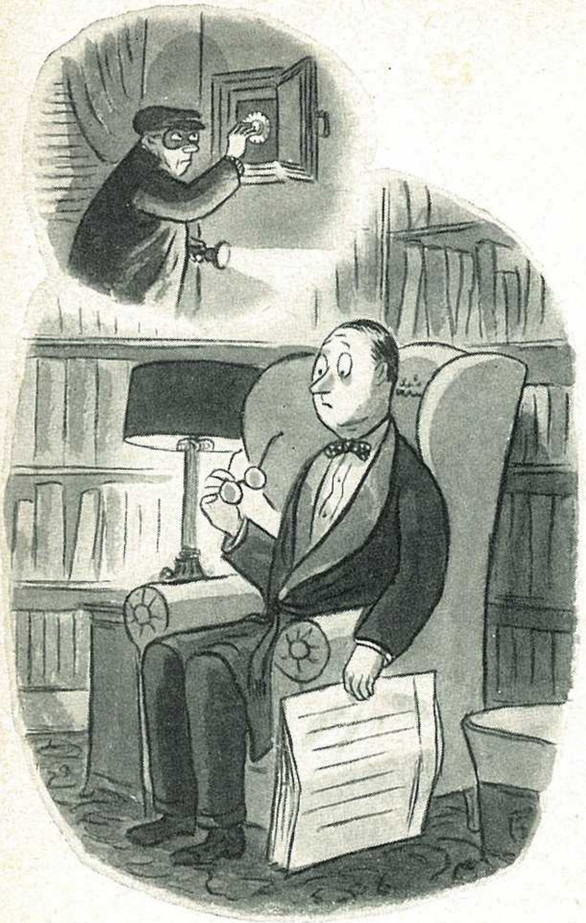

Chas Addams

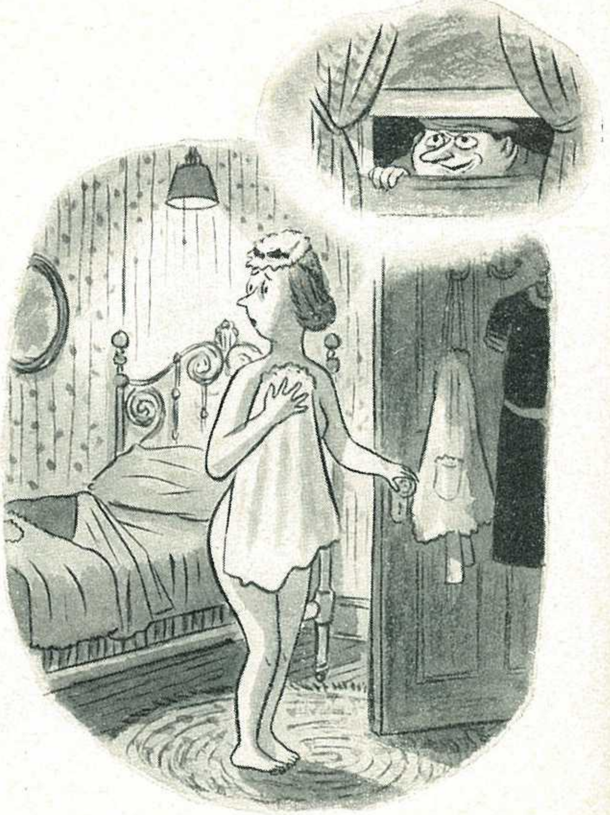
". . . and never, never go near a house with a well-beaten path to the door."

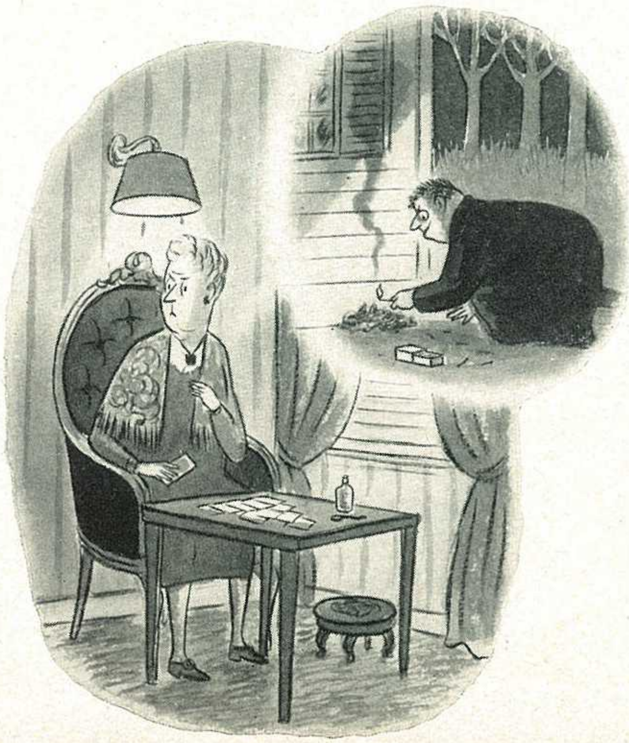


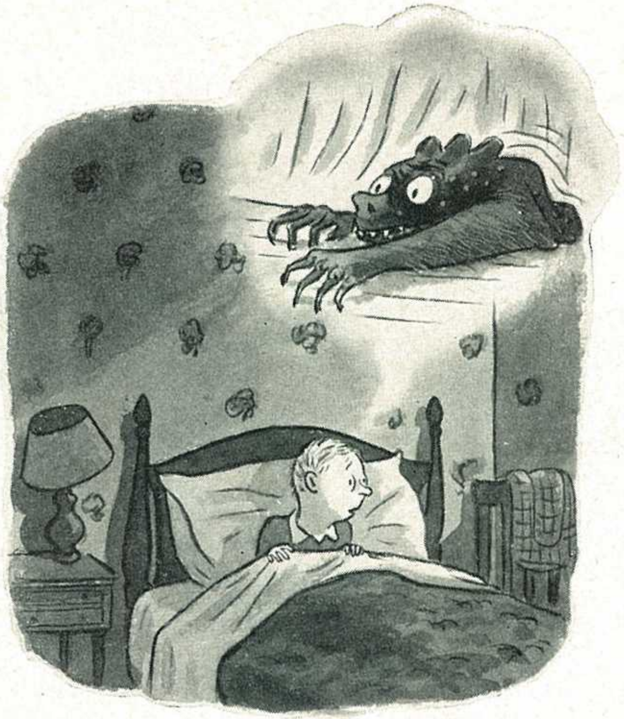
"Ten o'clock and all's well. Yes, sir, and all's well, too, with that toothsome, savory, mild Royal George Snuff, made from the finest Old Dominion tobacco leaf. For a rewarding experience . . ."

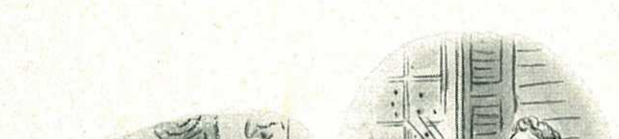

EXPERT WATCH REPAIR CO
WHILE U WAIT
ELITE
1718
ELITE SHOE REPAIR
J.N. GLOVER MORTICIAN
Chas Addams

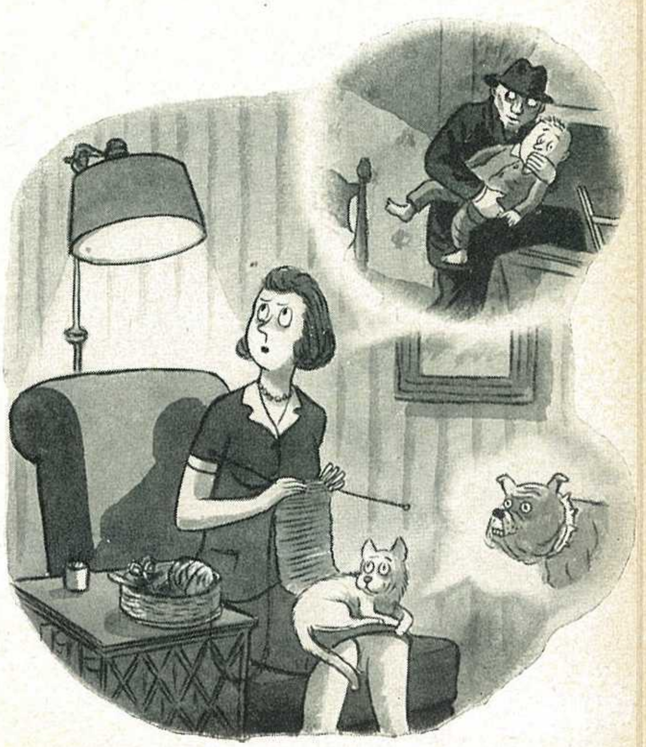


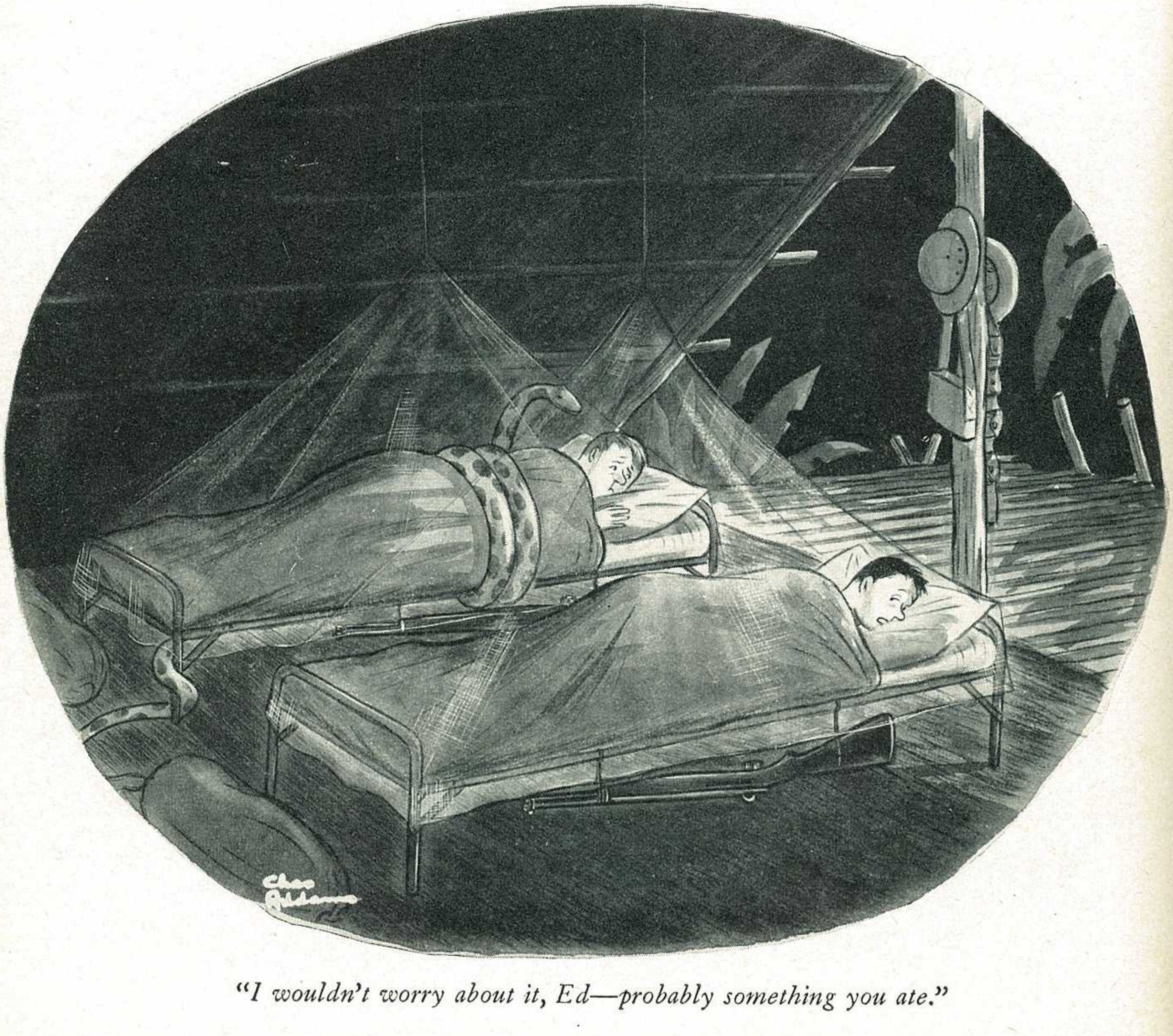




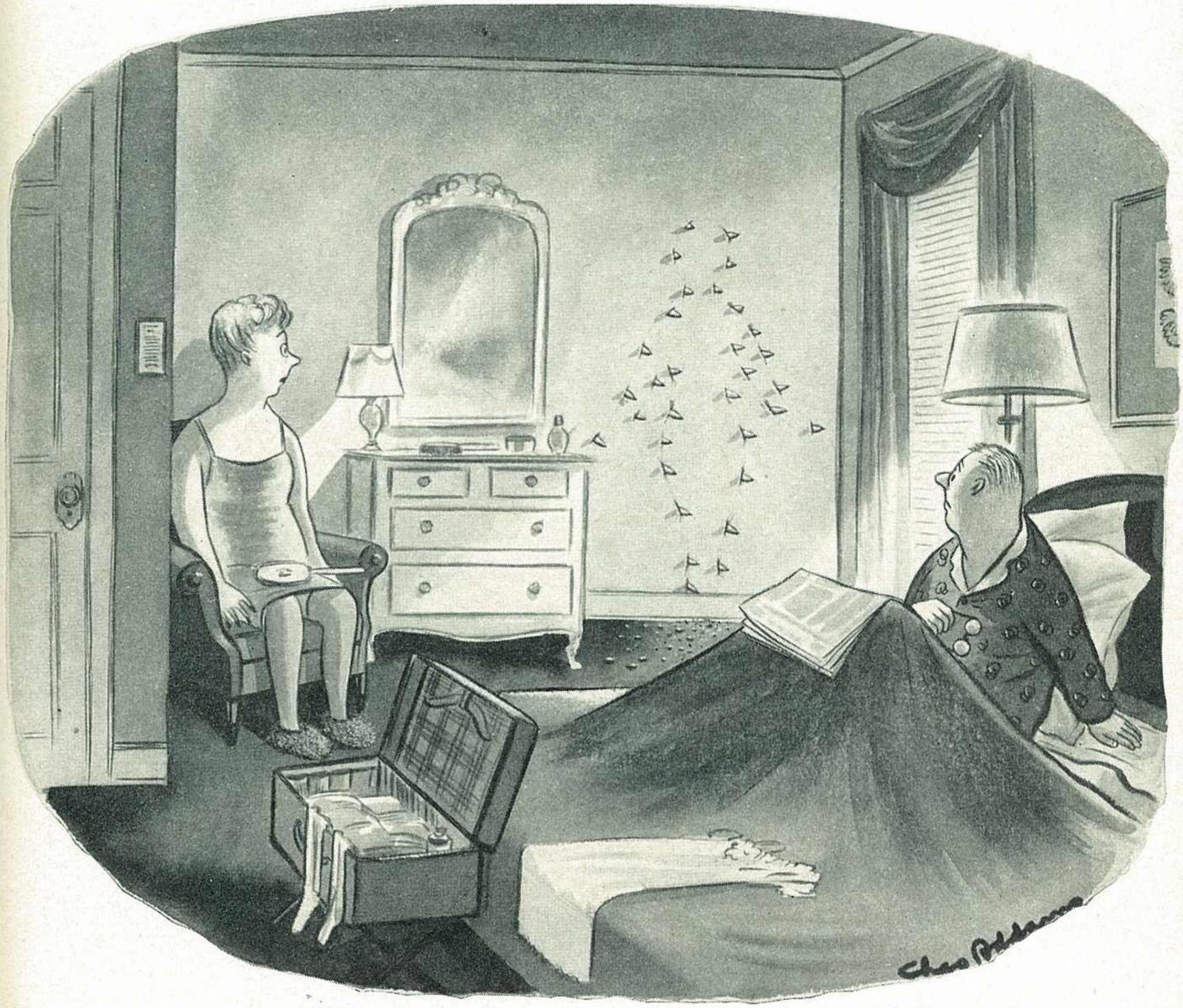


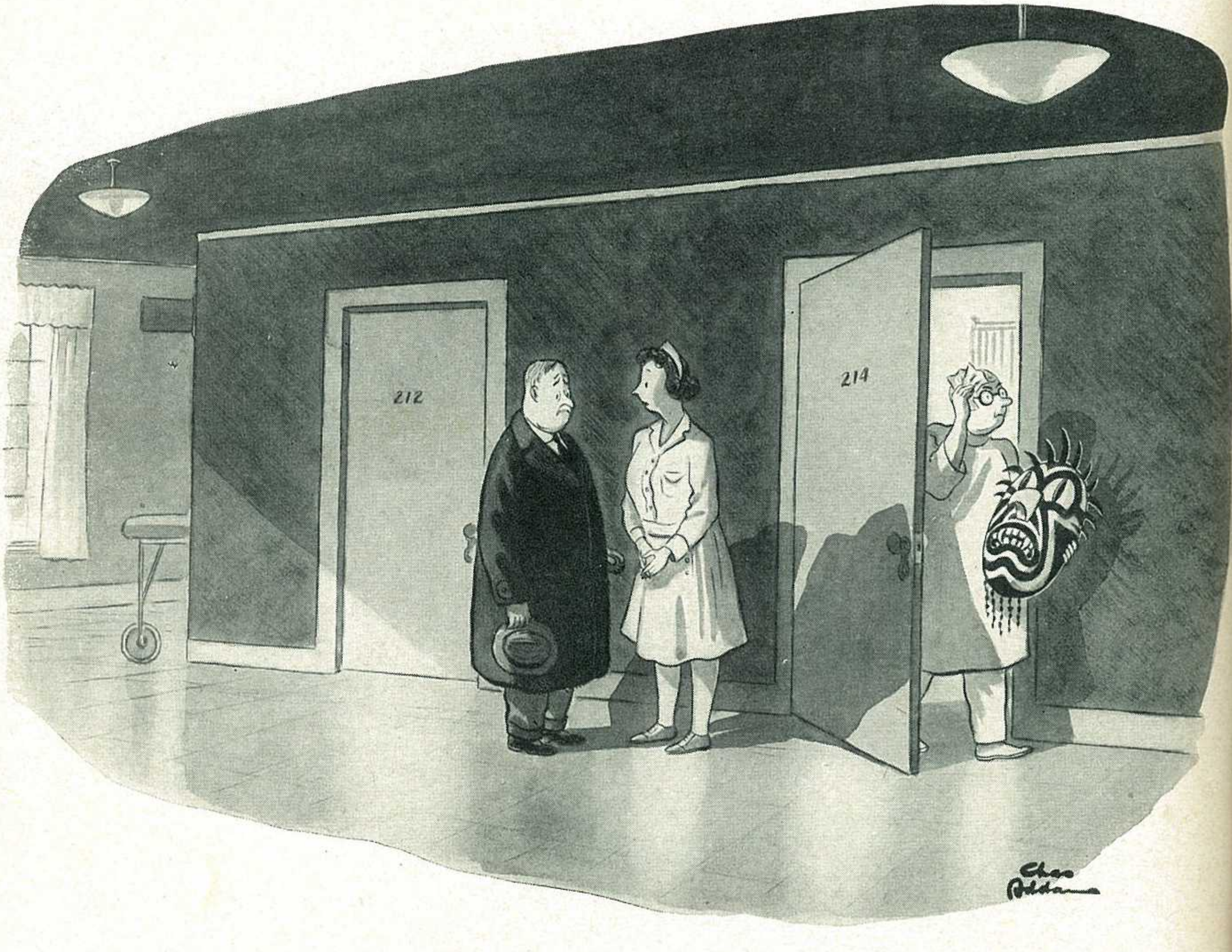

Chas Addams



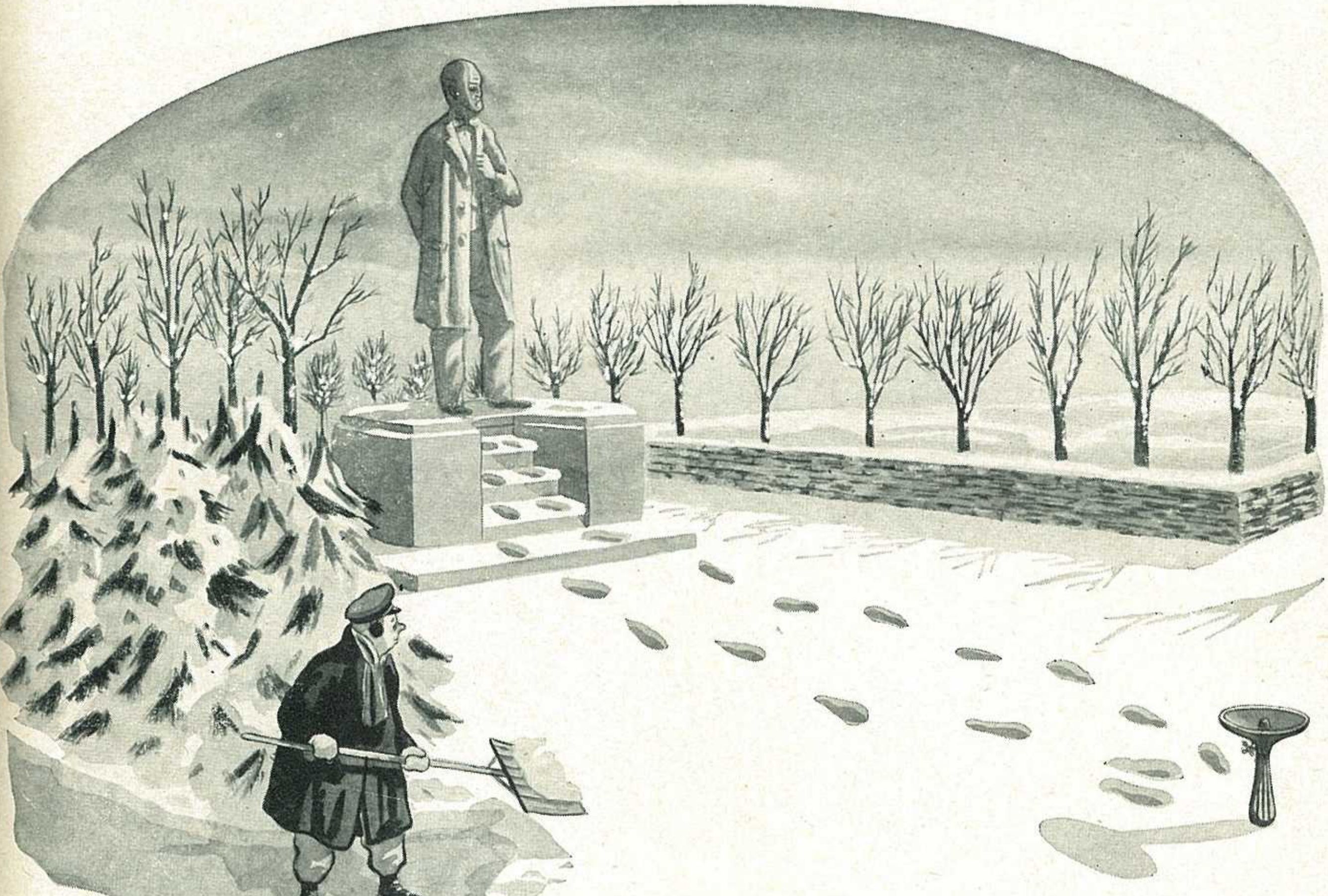

Chas Addams

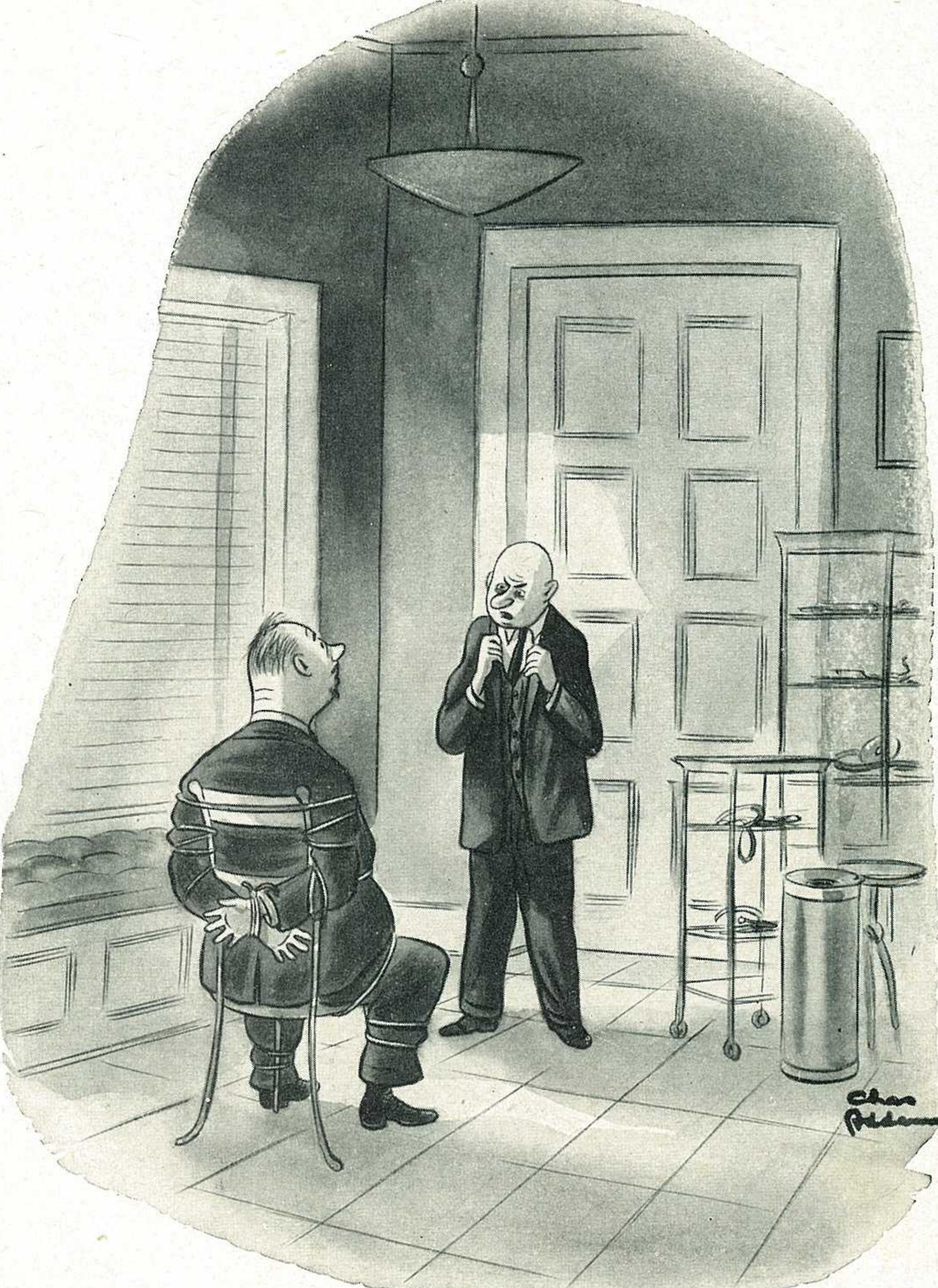
"I wouldn't worry about it, Ed—probably something you ate."


Chas Addams

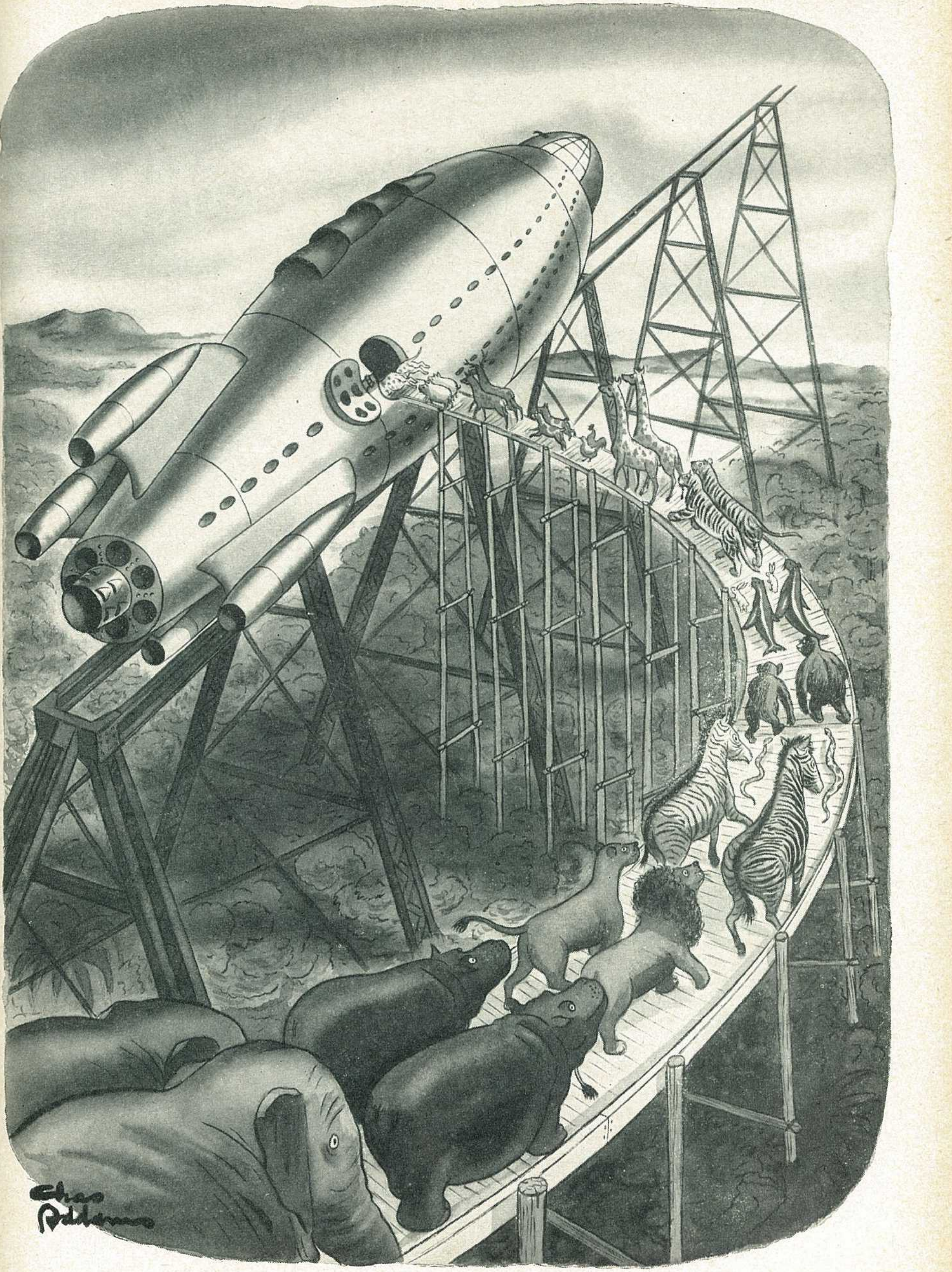

212
214
Chas Addams

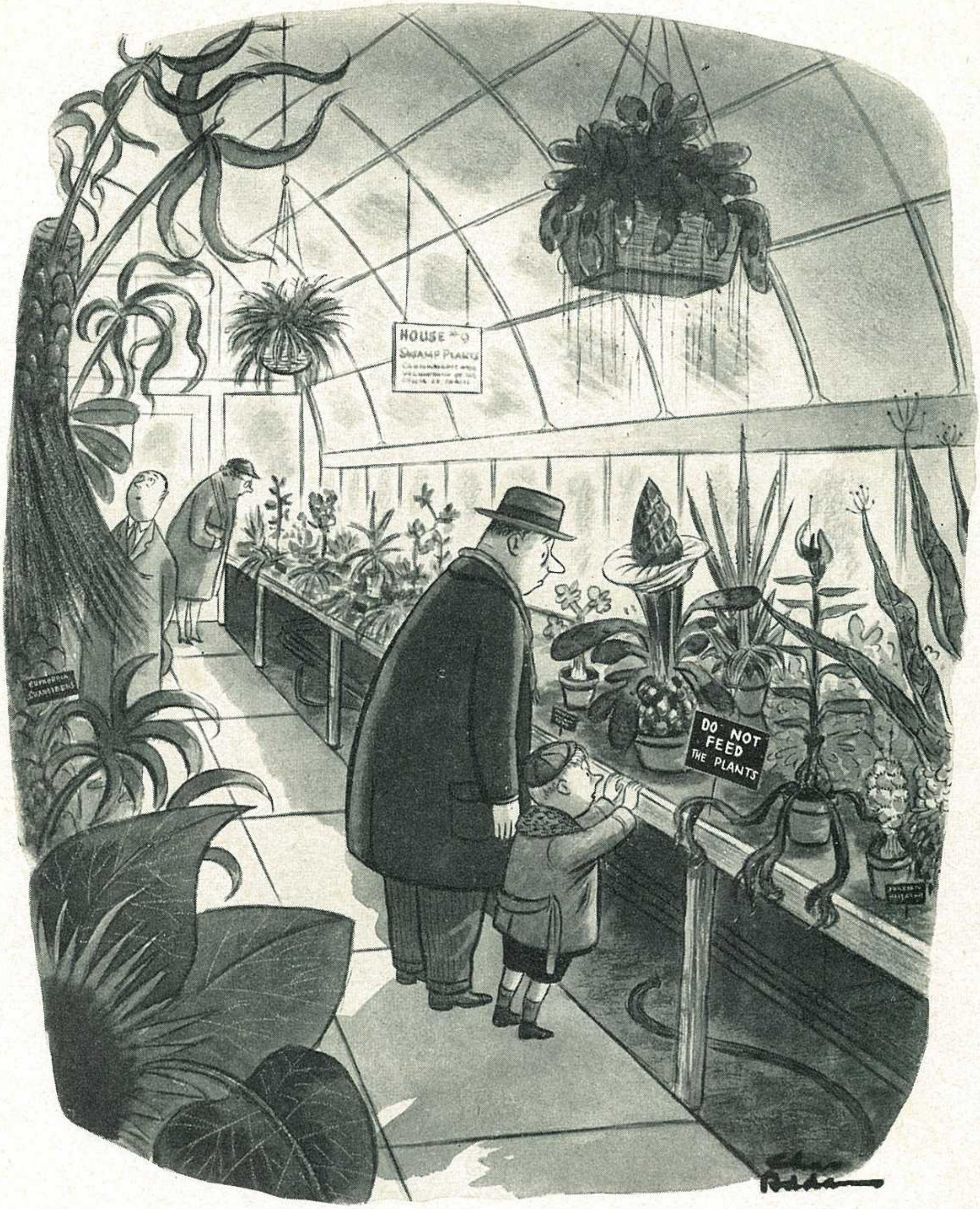
"You must try not to worry. Dr. Perry is doing everything humanly possible."

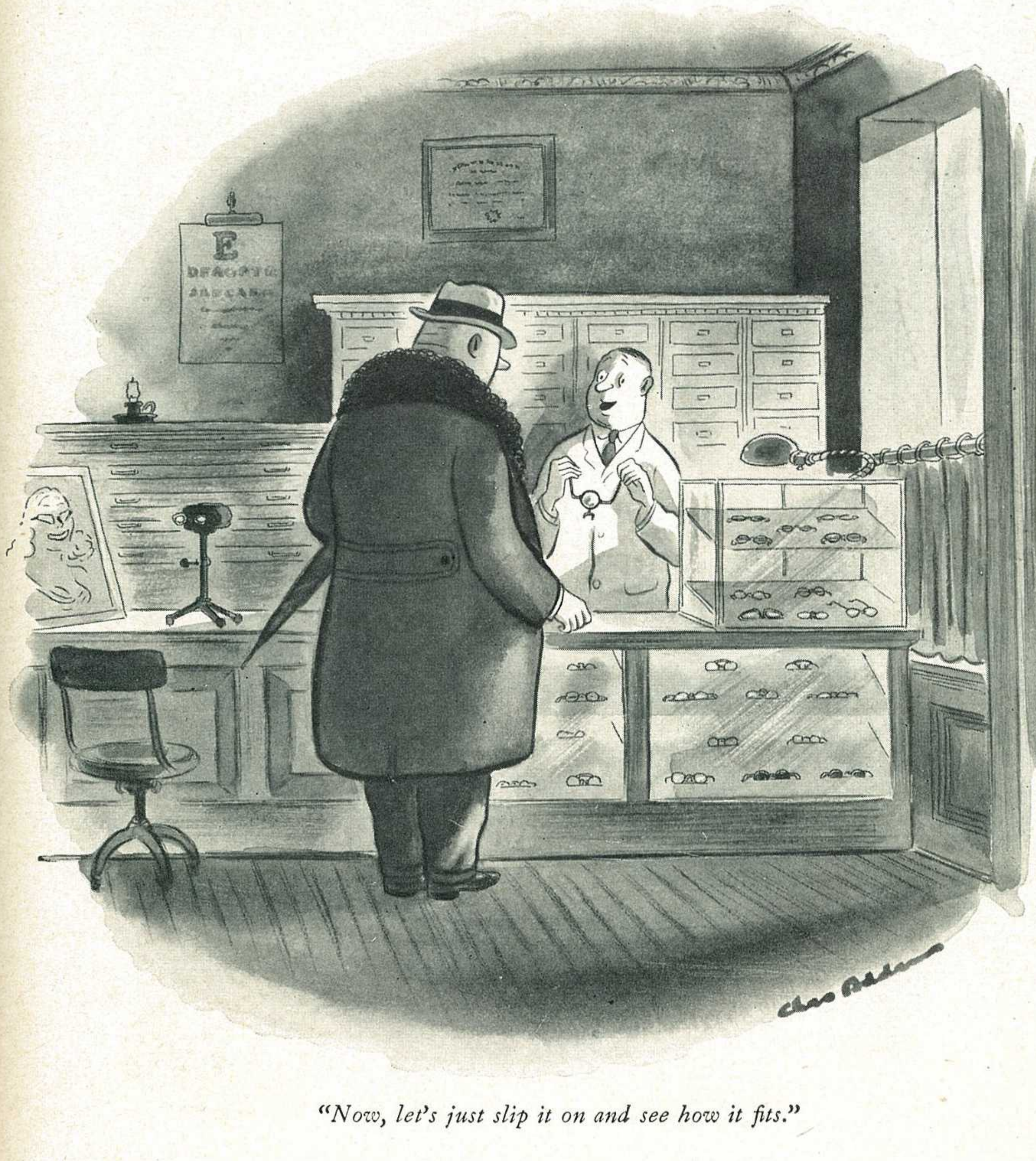

Chas Addams


Chas Addams

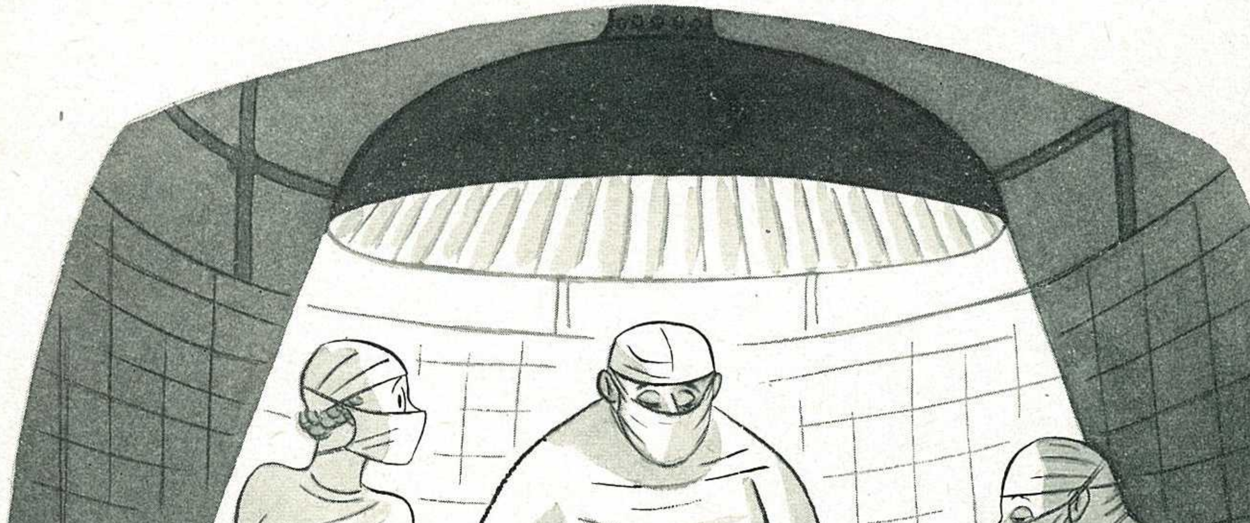
"Now tell me, Doctor, just when did you first begin to notice this paranoia of mine?"


Chas Addams

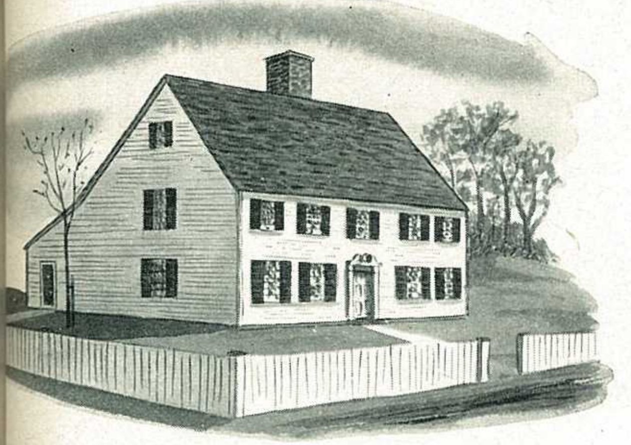

HOUSE No 9
SWAMP PLANTS
EUPHORBIA
DO NOT FEED THE PLANTS
Chas Addams


Chas Addams

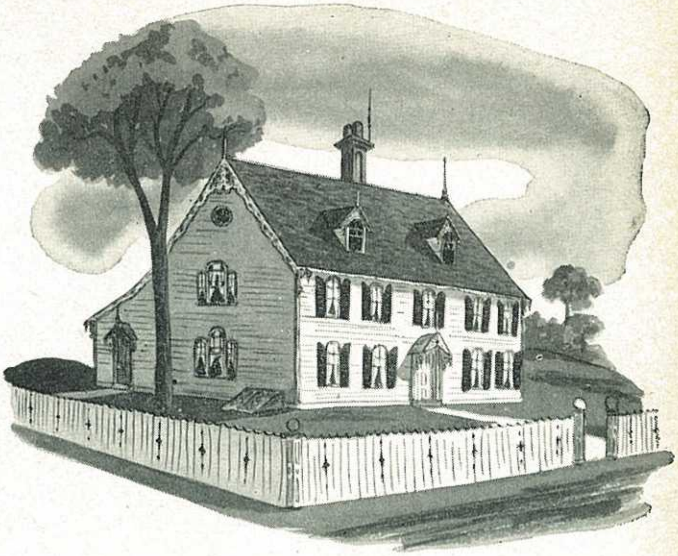
"Now, let's just slip it on and see how it fits."



"Scotch Tape."



1790



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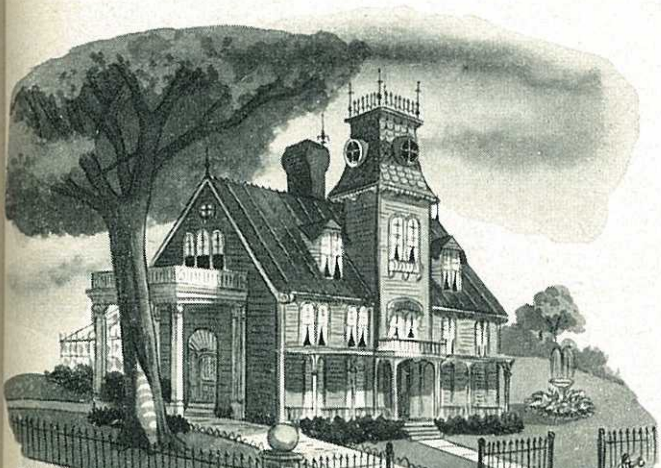

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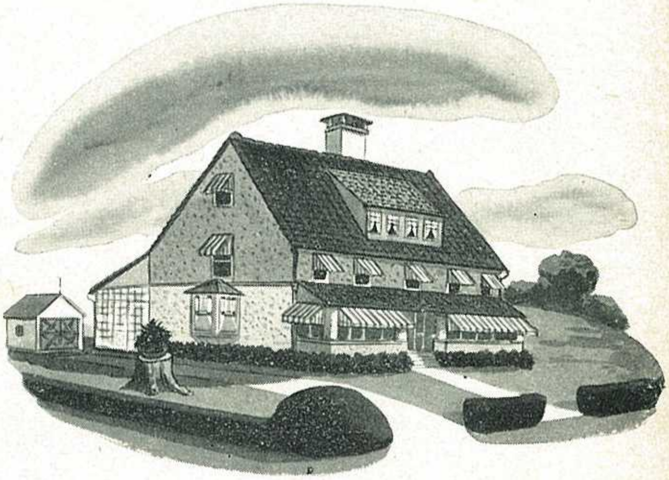

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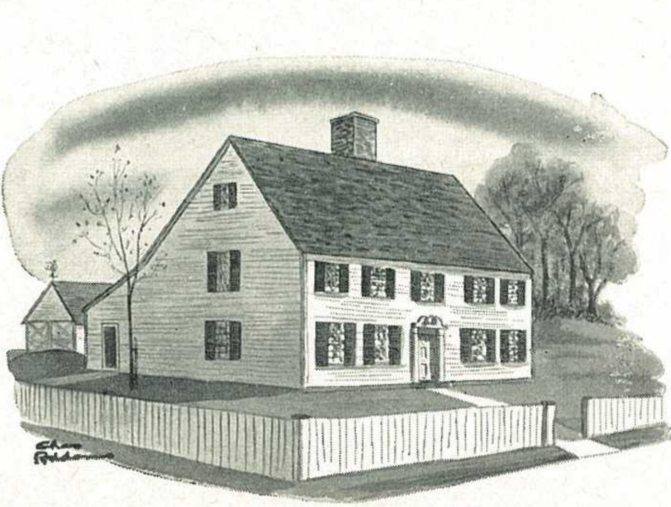
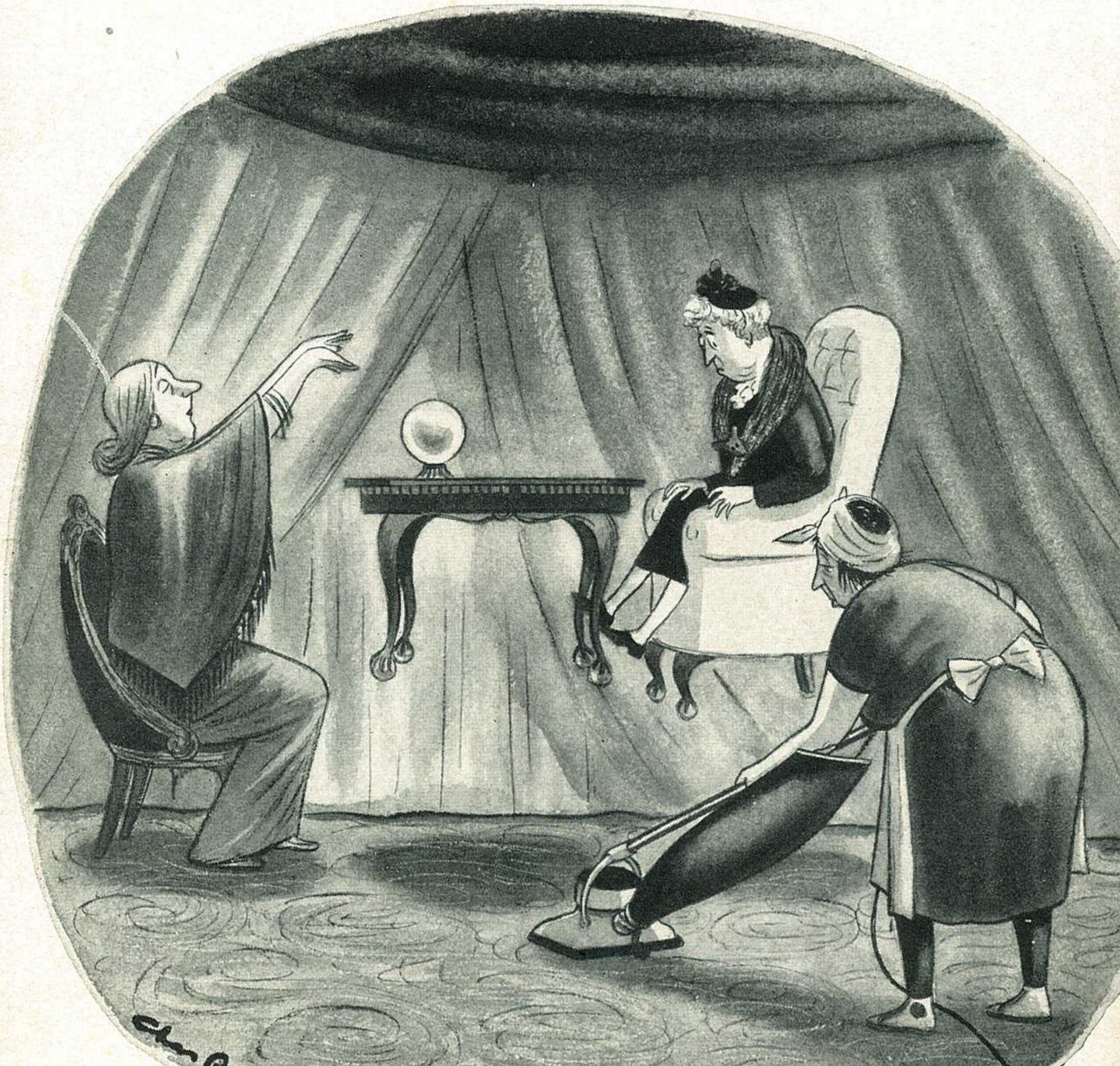
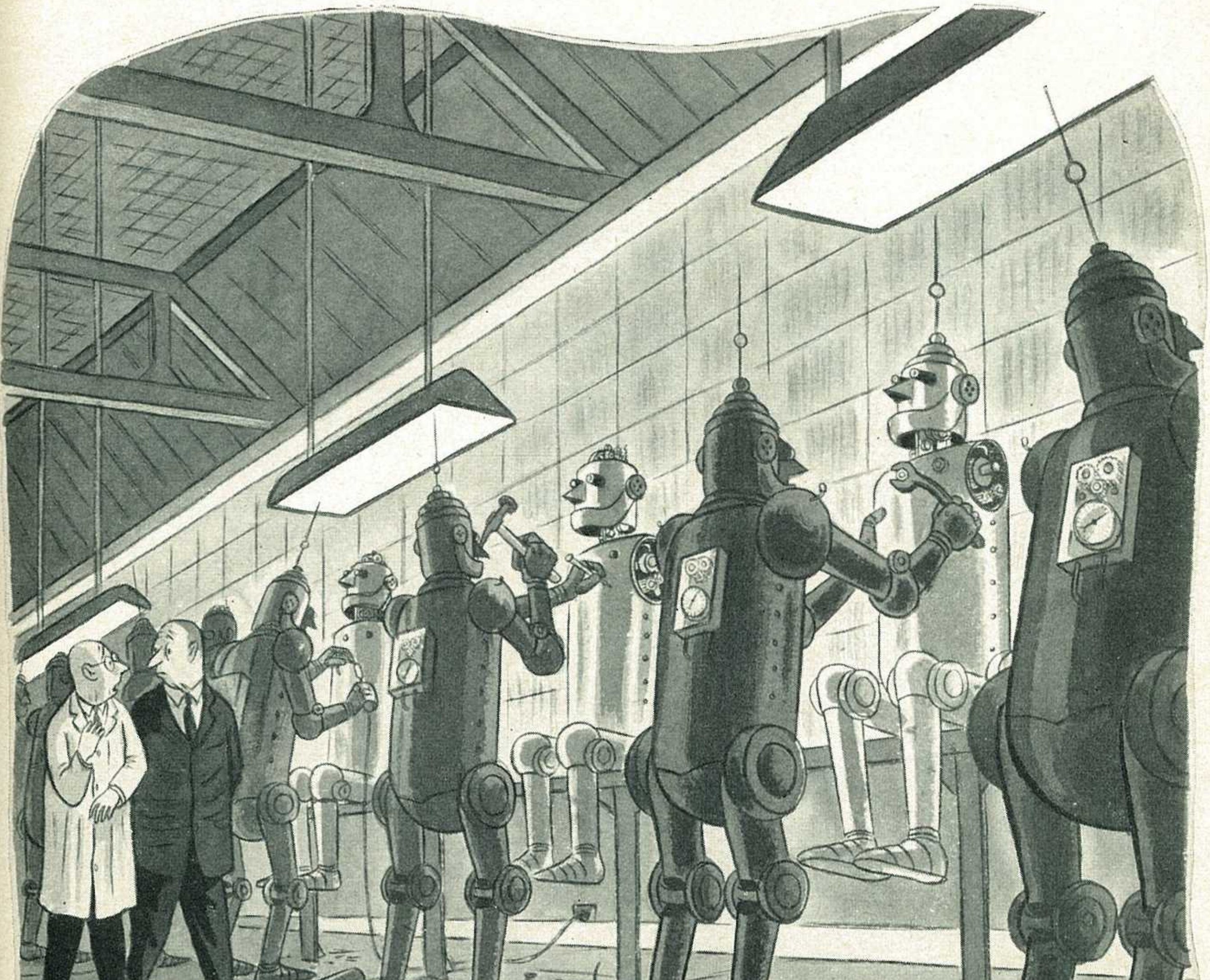
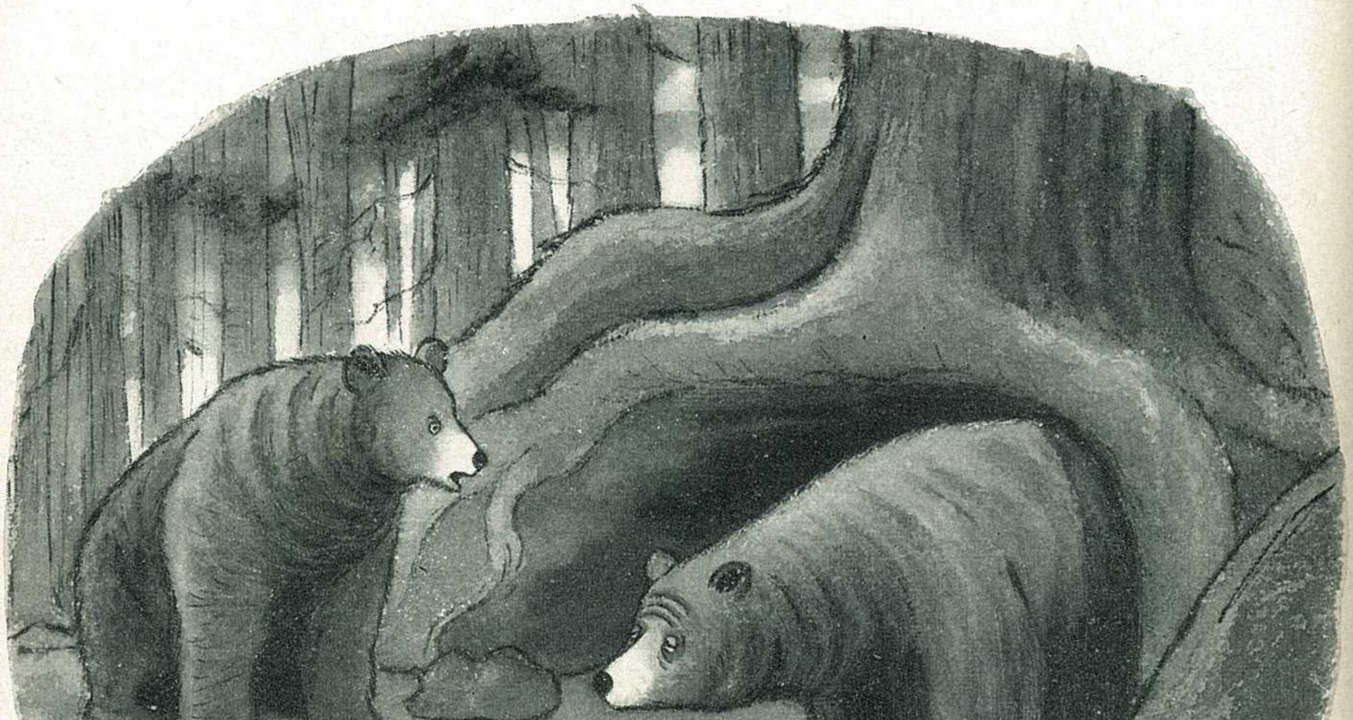


1946

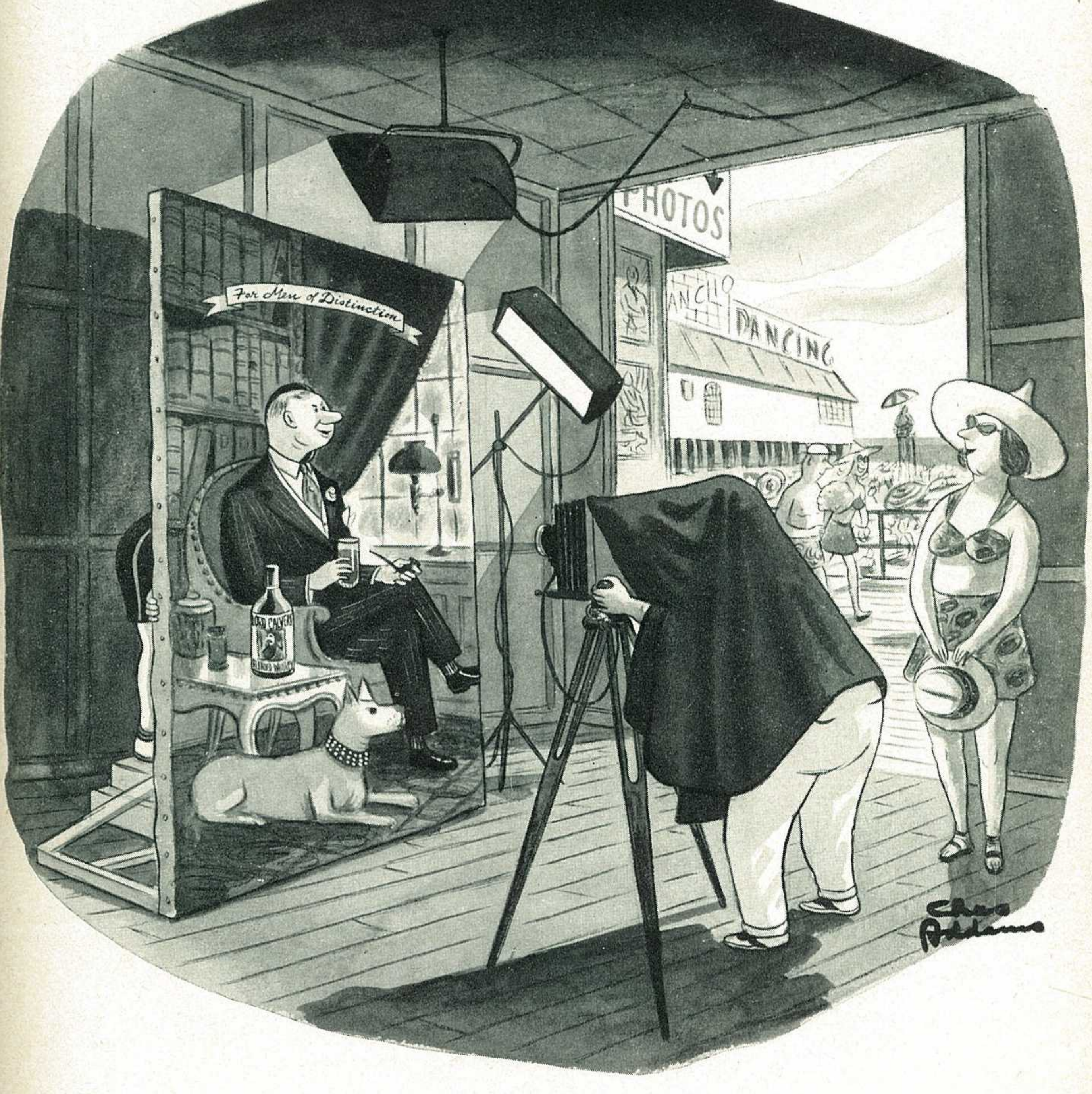

Chas Addams

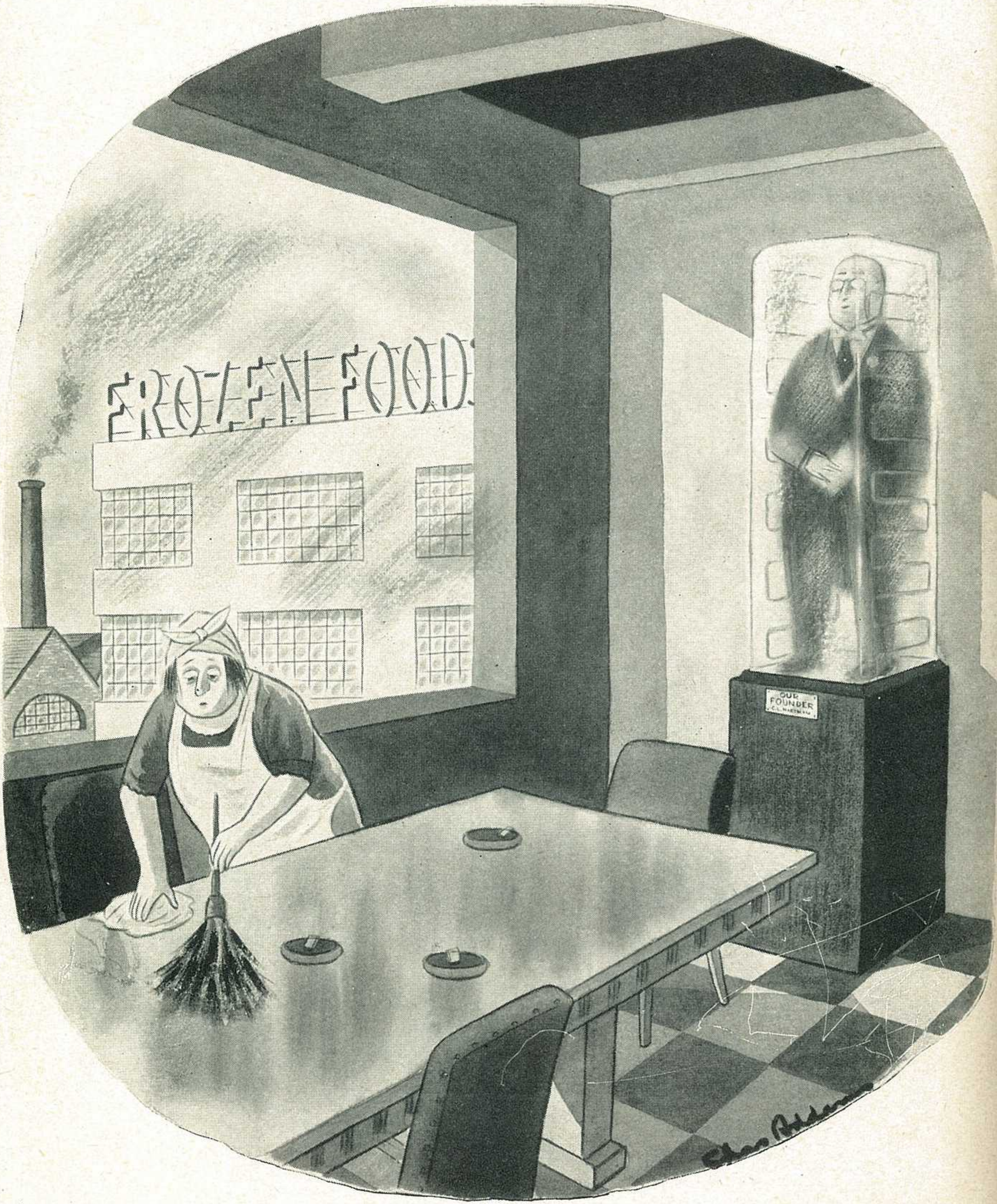

Chas Addams

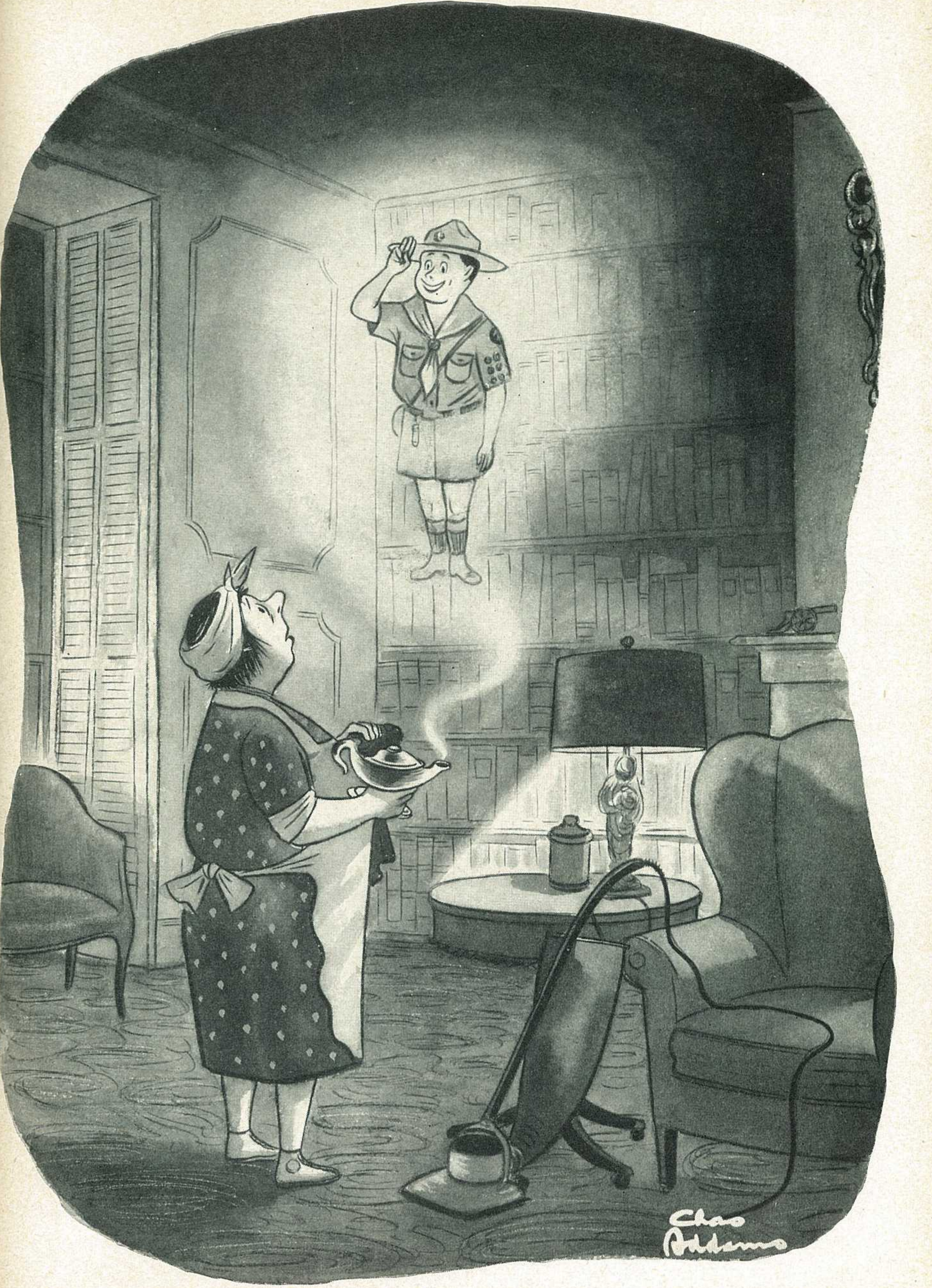
"Sometimes I ask myself, 'Where will it ever end?' "

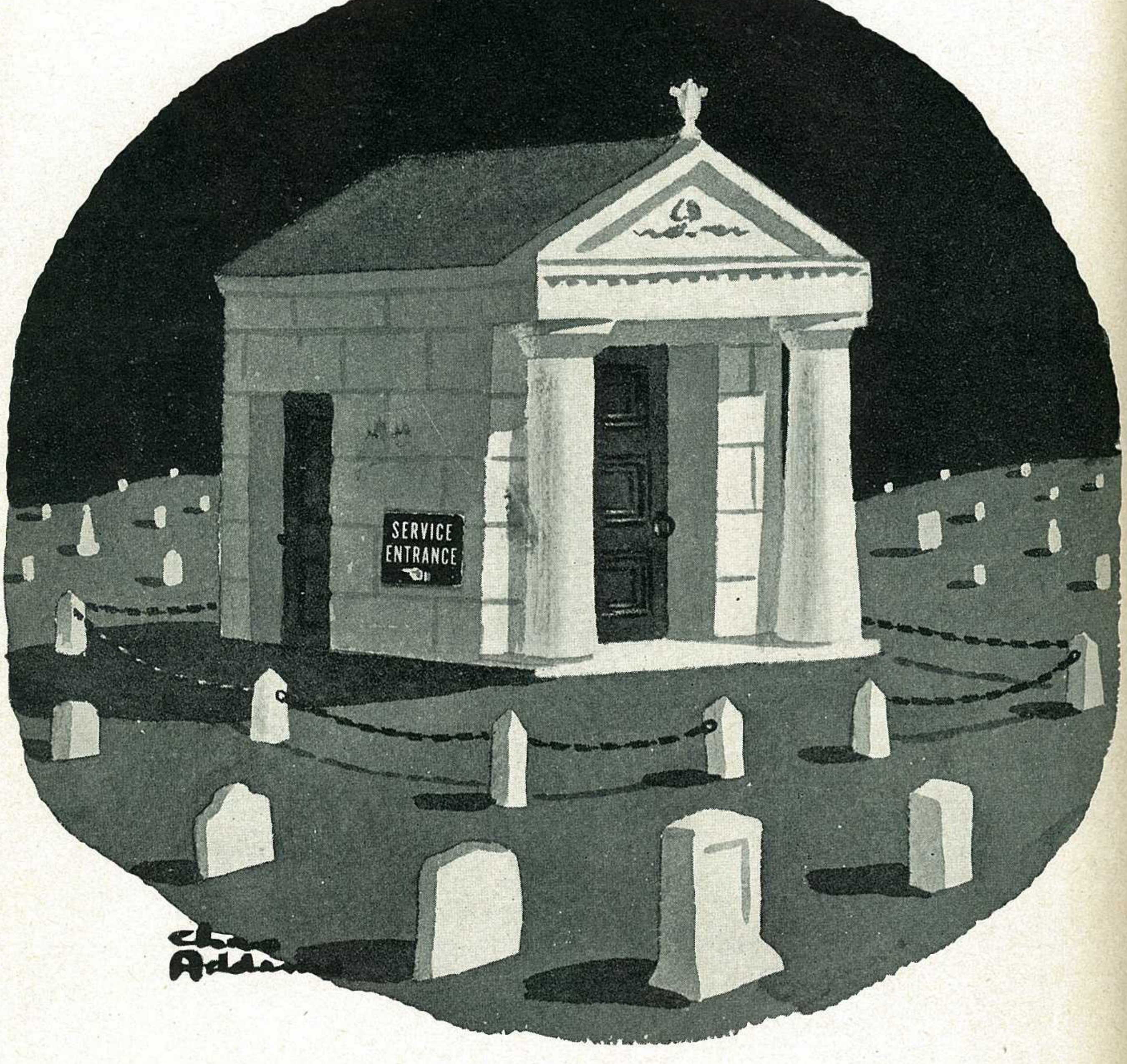

Chas Addams

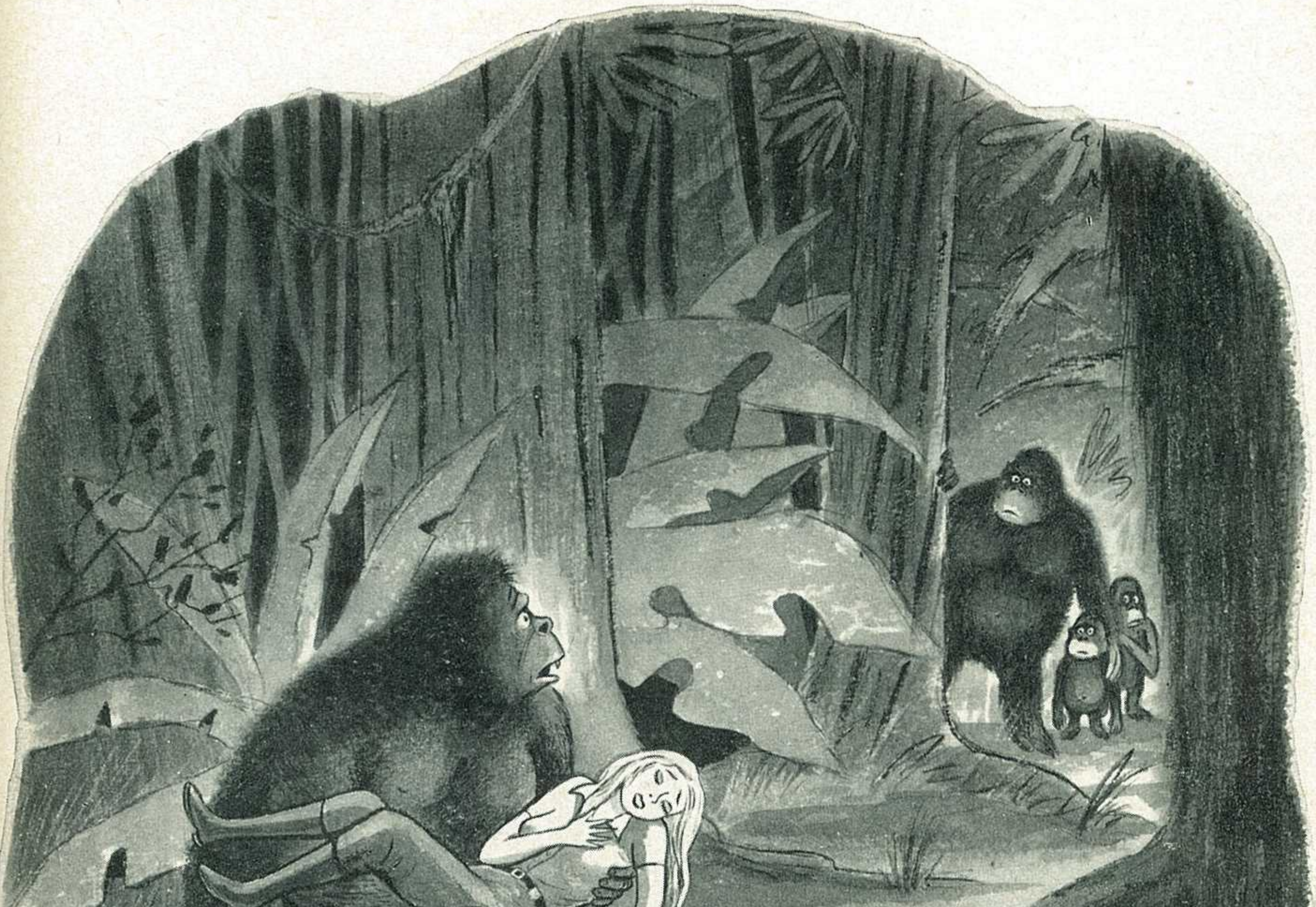
"What in the world was the matter? You tossed and turned all winter."


For Men of Distinction
PHOTOS
DANCING
LORD CALVERT
Chas Addams

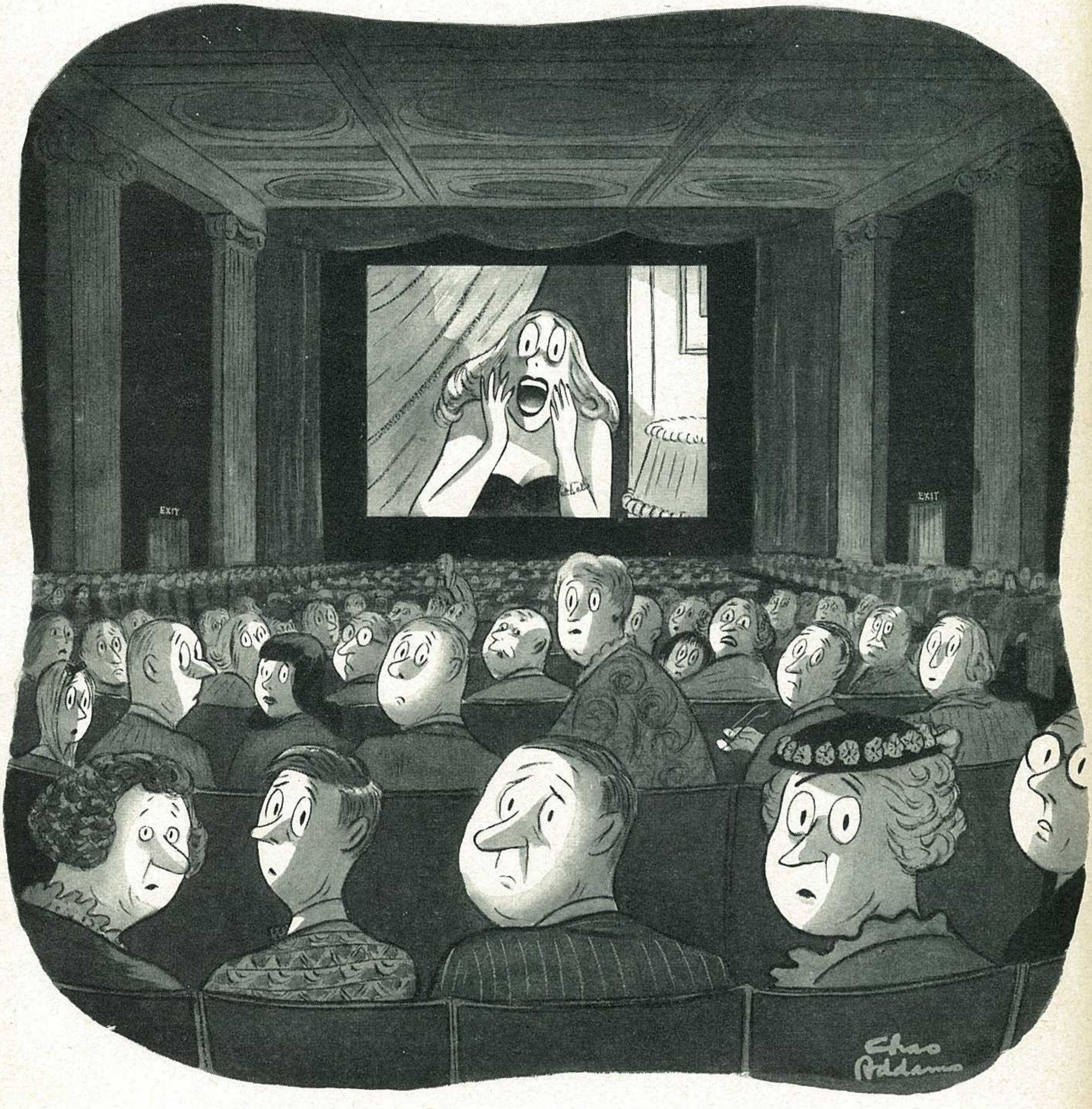

FROZEN FOODS
OUR FOUNDER
C.L. HARTMAN
Chas Addams


Chas Addams

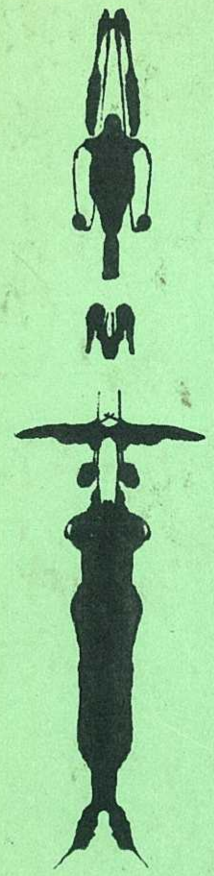

SERVICE ENTRANCE

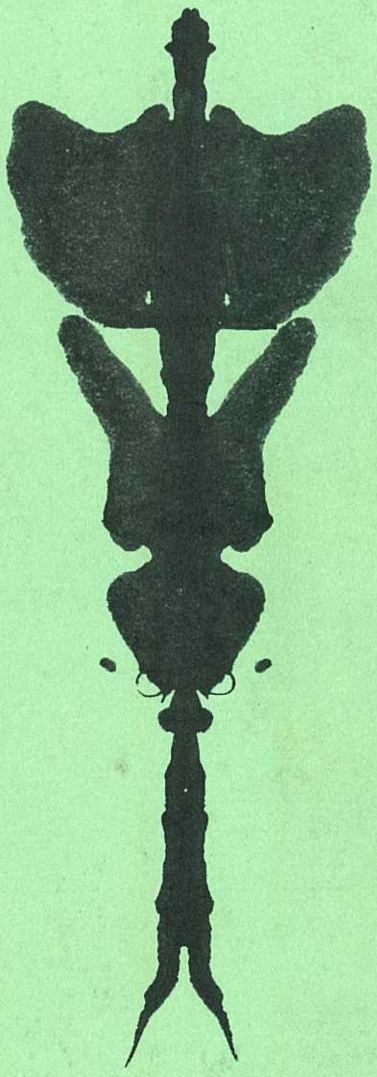

Chas Addams

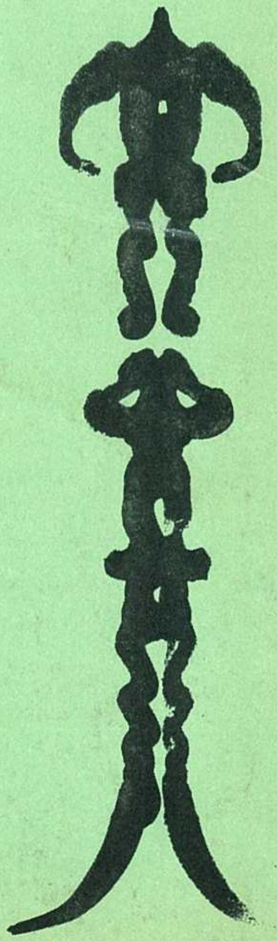
"Oh, oh!"

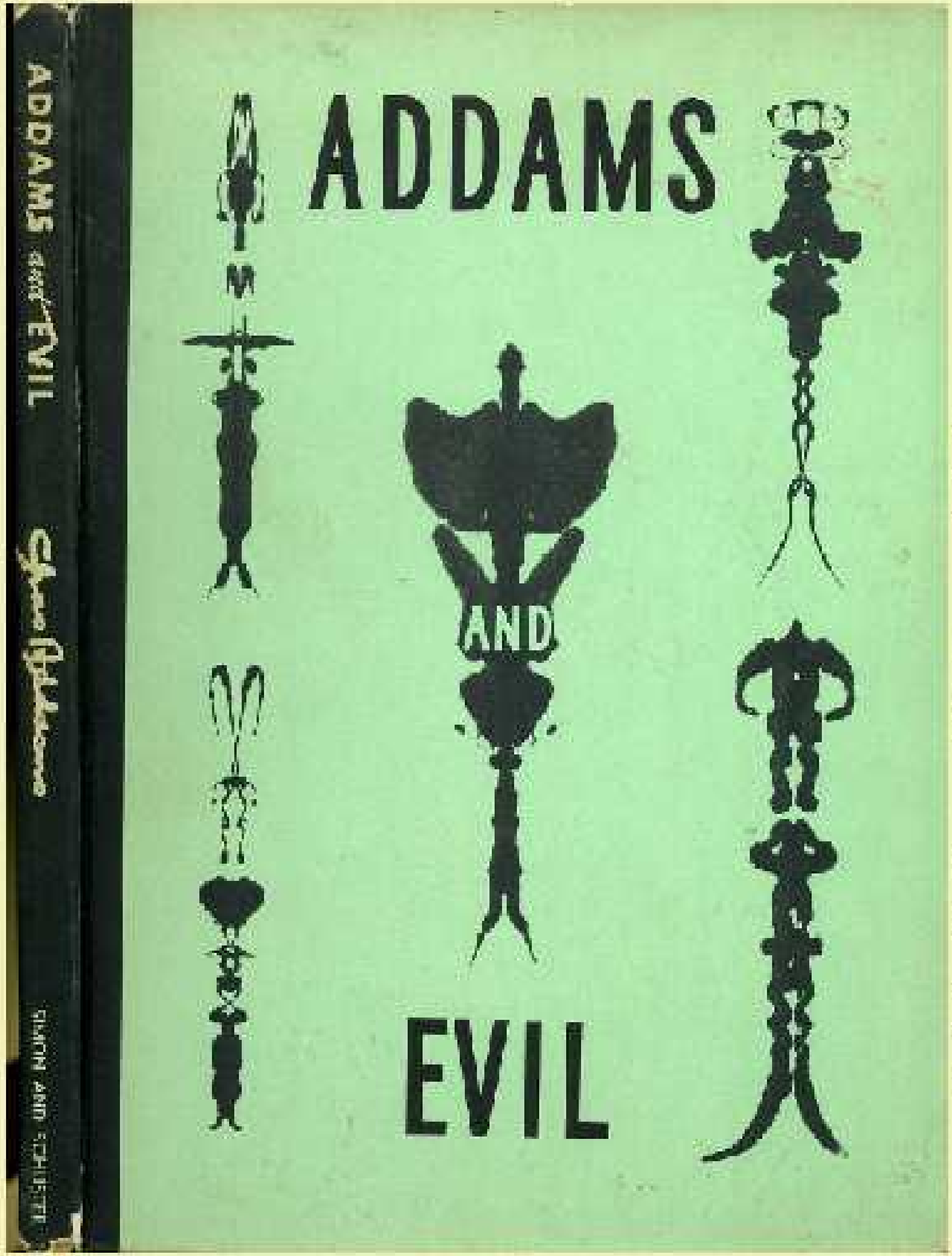

EXIT
EXIT
Chas Addams

LEVINSON'S
THE BOOK STORE
SACRAMENTO








ADDAMS
AND
EVIL
ADDAMS and EVIL
Chas Addams
SIMON AND SCHUSTER

Addams And Evil
(1947)

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